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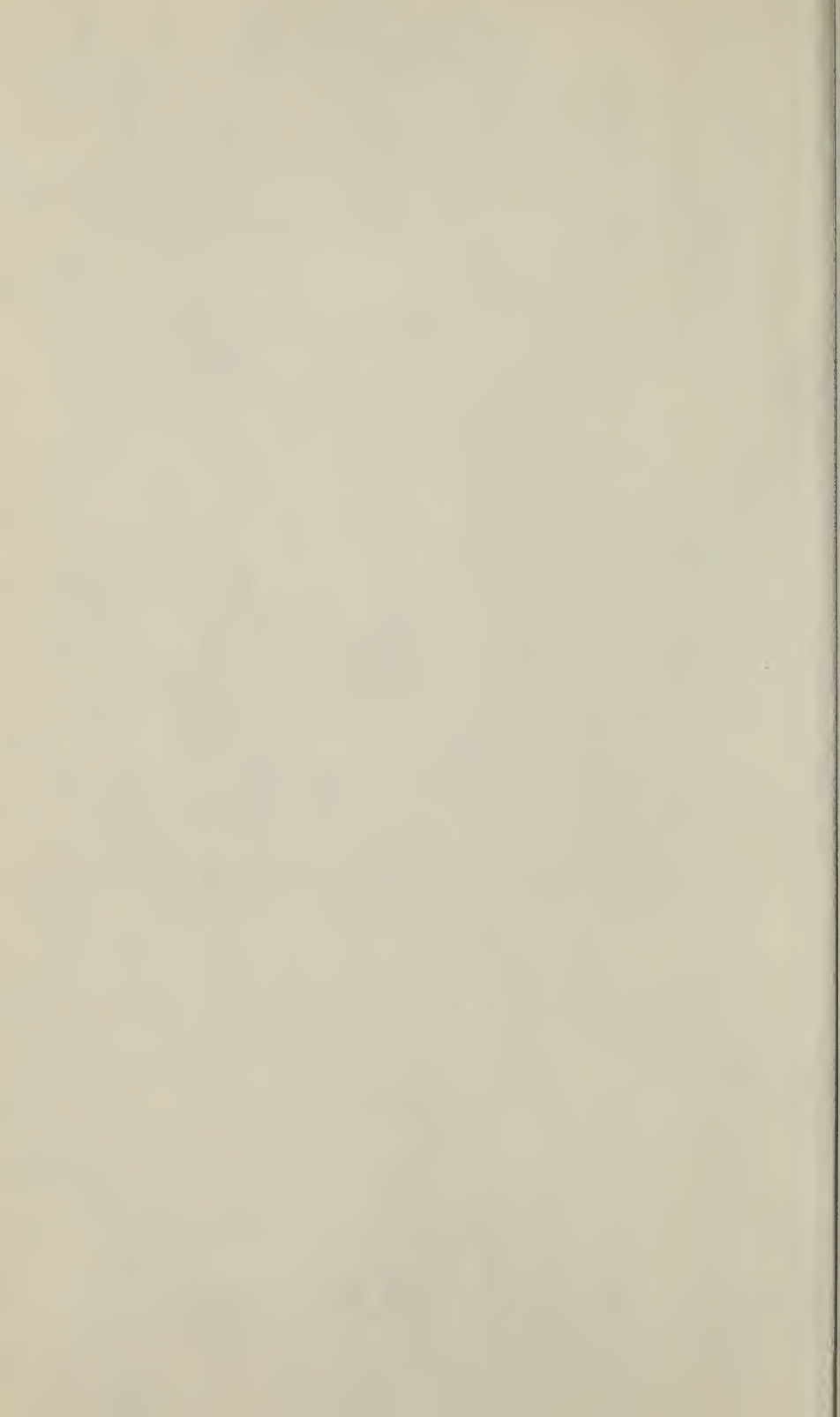
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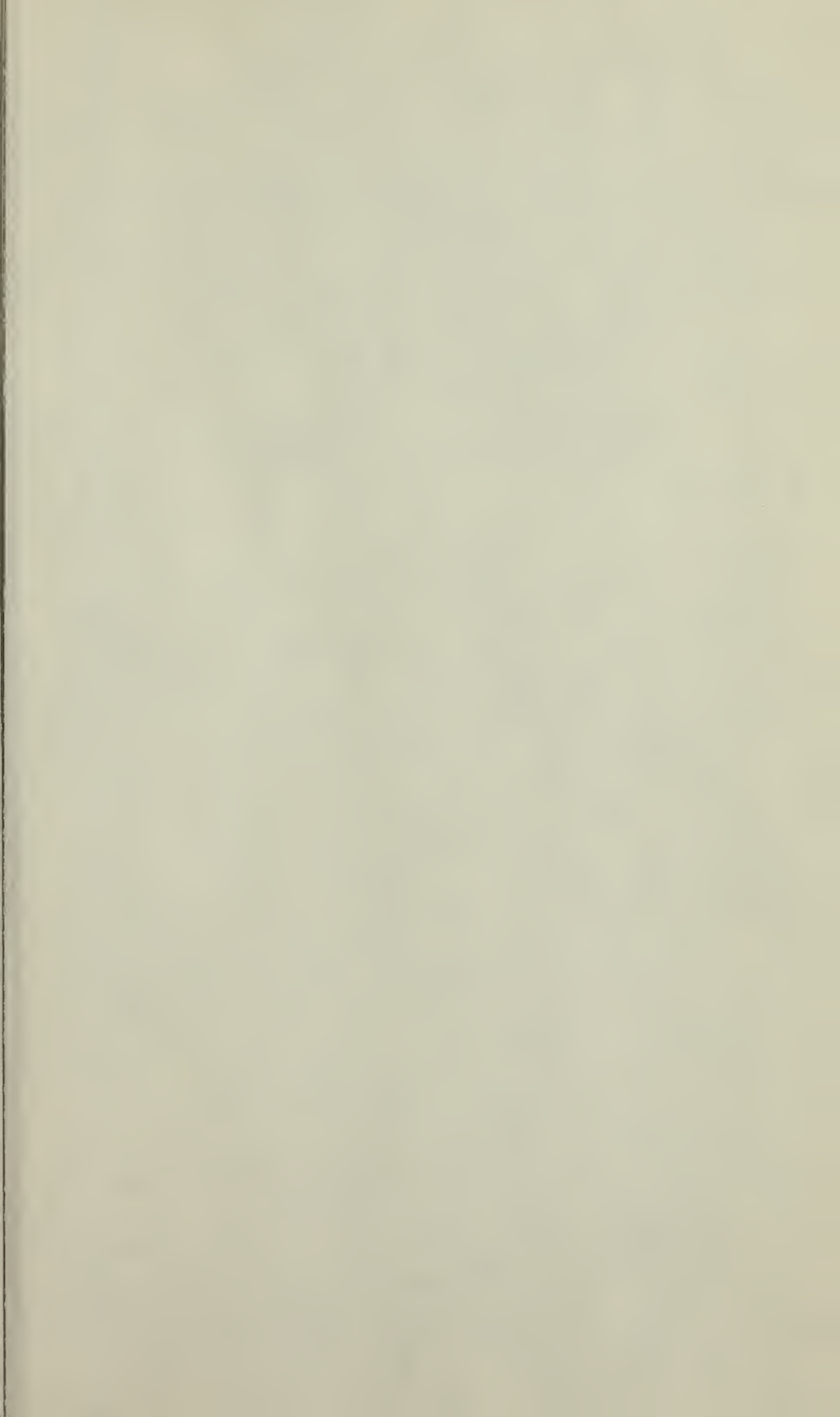


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WEST BRIDGEWATER
PUBLIC LIBRARY







ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1891.

TAUNTON:

C. A. HACK & SON, 9 UNION BLOCK.

1891.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

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FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1891.

TAUNTON:

C. A. HACK & SON, 9 UNION BLOCK.

1891.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1890.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND ASSESSORS.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

CHARLES T. WILLIAMS,

HORACE W. HOWARD.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

CHARLES E. TISDALE.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY,

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

FRANK S. TISDALE,

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,

CHARLES T. HOWARD,

BENJAMIN PERKINS.

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JOSEPH A. SHORES,

MISS EDITH F. HOWARD.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

ERLAND THAYER,

WILLIAM F. RYDER,

E. BRADFORD WILBUR.

CONSTABLES.

ELLIS R. HOLBROOK,

H. EUGENE WESTON,

JOSIAH A. PERKINS,

DANIEL W. GARDNER.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

FIELD DRIVERS.

JONAS G. HARTWELL,

E. B. WILBUR,

CLINTON P. HOWARD.

FENCE VIEWERS.

CHARLES C. THAYER,

A. L. ALGER,

JOSEPH C. HOWARD.

MEASURERS OF LUMBER.

LESTER P. RIPLEY,

C. WESLEY PACKARD,

PARDON K. BACON,

CYRUS ALGER,

SAMUEL L. RYDER.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

PARDON K. BACON,

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

GEORGE A. VOSMUS,

ERLAND THAYER,

FRANK S. JONES.

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FOBES,

LUCIUS DUNBAR,

EDWARD H. KEITH.

AUDITORS.

GEORGE M. PRATT,

LUCIUS GURNEY.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town February 1, 1891, is respectfully submitted :

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION,

As Assessed May 1, 1890.

Value of real estate,	\$858,213.00
Value of personal estate,	173,825.00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$1,032,038.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$875.00	
County tax,	1,199.26	
	<hr/>	\$2,074.26
Town grant,	12,510.00	
Overlay,	531.29	
	<hr/>	\$13,041.29
		<hr/>
Total tax,		\$15,115.55

Rate of tax, \$13.75 per \$1,000. Poll tax—Males, \$2.00 ;
females, 50c.

Number of polls,	464
females,	6
acres of land,	9,830
dwelling houses,	395
horses,	393
cows,	678
sheep,	5
swine,	107
young stock,	151

APPROPRIATIONS.

For support of schools,	\$3,500.00
school supplies and repairs,	450.00
repairs of highways,	3,000.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	1,000.00
incidentals,	700.00
public lectures,	100.00
memorial service,	100.00
interest on town debt,	160.00
paying town debt,	2,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$12,510.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Valuation of town farm,	\$4,000.00
personal property,	1,818.85
ten school-houses,	13,000.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	100.00
road scraper,	100.00

JOSEPH A. SHORES, }
HORACE W. HOWARD, } *Assessors.*
CHARLES T. WILLIAMS, }

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE FEB. 1, 1891.

12 tons English hay,	\$192.00
10 tons meadow and swale hay,	100.00
corn, shorts and meal,	10.15
2 bushels of beans,	7.50
10 cows,	350.00
1 horse,	140.00
4 swine,	15.00
80 fowls,	60.00
6 ducks,	6.00
33 bushels potatoes,	41.25
turnips and beets,	1.85
800 lbs. pork,	64.00
30 lbs. lard,	3.00
10 lbs. butter,	2.50
4 doz. eggs,	1.36
1 $\frac{1}{8}$ bbls. flour,	7.59
groceries,	5.00
6 pork barrels,	4.00
soap and oil,	2.90
fish,	.63
express wagon,	15.00
step ladder,	1.25
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenters' tools (new),	9.37
hay cutter,	4.00
7 stoves,	45.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,093.35

Amount brought forward,	\$1,093.35
household furniture,	55.00
tinware,	10.00
crockery, etc.,	20.00
3 churns,	8.00
woodenware,	8.00
beds and bedding,	90.00
table linen and towels,	5.00
hay wagon,	30.00
covered wagon,	60.00
2 tip carts,	60.00
pung,	14.00
cart harness,	6.00
new harness,	30.00
2 harnesses,	12.00
4 ox yokes,	12.00
sled and wheelbarrow,	8.00
robes and blankets,	9.00
mowing machine and rake,	60.00
5 plows, 3 harrows and other tools,	90.00
ashes,	5.00
manure,	125.00
coal,	6.00
fence wire,	2.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,818.85

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand February 1, 1890,	\$29.73
Cash for milk,	1,005.68
horse,	25.00
vegetables,	11.04
onions,	40.00
potatoes,	132.35
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$1,243.80

Amount brought forward,	\$1,243.80
Cash for poultry,	5.35
eggs,	51.61
beans,	3.30
corn,	50.00
calves,	6.00
stock,	28.00
hay,	87.12
Drawn from treasury to pay warden's salary for the year,	300.00
Drawn from treasury to pay J. C. Swan, medical attendance,	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,785.18

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour (10 bbls.),	\$66.05
meat,	54.62
fish,	4.09
hardware,	11.79
grass and garden seed,	41.65
blacksmithing,	14.86
clothing,	42.50
soap,	5.16
tinware,	7.28
coal and wood,	34.22
paint,	2.84
damage done by cows,	5.00
cash to Edmund Alger,	3.35
medicine,	5.14
tobacco and snuff,	8.75
salt,	3.66
repairs on house,	4.92
repairs on harnesses and shoes,	9.37
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$325.25

Amount brought forward,	\$325.25
Paid for fertilizer,	52.71
groceries,	134.52
grain,	514.11
house furnishings,	24.80
farming tools,	5.48
oil,	5.97
stock,	50.50
lumber,	13.57
sundries,	4.26
carpenters' tools,	4.37
labor,	96.85
poultry supplies,	3.30
team work,	7.50
harnesses, robe, etc.,	41.82
crackers and bread,	18.65
horse,	140.00
fence wire,	9.73
wagon,	15.00
J. C. Swan, medical attendance,	10.00
warden's salary,	300.00
Cash on hand February 1, 1891,	6.79
	<hr/>
	\$1,785.18

COST OF SUPPORTING THE POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from the treasury to pay T. B. Besse, as warden,	300.00
Drawn from treasury to pay J. C. Swan's bill,	10.00
Drawn from treasury to pay the burial of Mary Rogers,	14.50
Loss in inventory from February 1, 1890, to Feb- ruary 1, 1891,	23.96
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$348.46

Amount brought forward,		\$348.46
Cash on hand,	\$6.79	
Cash from estate of Mary Rogers,	34.09	
	<hr/>	40.88
Above the income of the farm,		<hr/> \$307.58

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Michael Ryan,	42	52
Albert Staples,	48	52
George Randall,	64	52
Conn Sullivan,	56	37
Mary Sullivan,	—	3
Abby Fadden,	62	32
Edgar Fadden,	10	52
Edmund Alger,	77	22

The warden with the hearse has attended seven funerals.

The warden during the year has lodged and fed eighty-eight tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Frank Fadden's children,	\$162.50
Fred Leonard,	204.00
Olive B. Shaw,	139.00
Mary Sullivan,	72.00
Thomas Mason,	22.50
Annie Gifford,	43.47
Nathaniel Pratt,	155.75
Charles E. Williams,	13.88
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$813.10

Amount brought forward,		\$813.10
Aid to Joseph Metcalf,		123.25
Mrs. Harriet Packard,		8.00
Taunton Lunatic Hospital, board Thomas Clancy,		169.46
Paid Brockton, burial of Mrs. Alden D. Jacobs,		12.00
Aid to Sarah Higgins,		25.00
		<hr/>
Total Cost,		\$1150.81
Due from Plympton,	\$155.75	
Received from estate of Annie Gifford,	58.47	
Due from state, J. Metcalf,	123.25	
	<hr/>	337.47
		<hr/>
Total expense of poor out of house,		\$813.34
Total expense of poor in and out of house,		1,120.92

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	} <i>Overseers of the Poor.</i>
HORACE W. HOWARD,	
CHARLES T. WILLIAMS,	

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,		\$700.00
Jonathan White, counsel (Sullivan case),	\$25.00	
Hosea Kingman (Sullivan case),	100.00	
Judgment Thompson case,	\$500.00	
Plaintiff's costs,	92.52	
Dr. Payne,	35.00	
Dr. Brownell,	12.00	
Dr. Atwood,	5.00	
James O. Alger,	6.00	
Herbert Millett,	6.00	
Expenses,	9.50	
D. W. Gardner,	4.75	
B. B. Howard, counsel,	50.00	
	<hr/>	\$720.77
C. P. Howard, rent of town hall,	75.00	
Daniel Perkins, rent of office,	18.00	
S. L. Ryder, voting shelves,	20.00	
Mosler Safe Co., safe,	140.50	
L. A. Flagg, moving safe,	6.00	
John P. Lovell Arms Co., police equipments,	40.88	
	<hr/>	
Amount carried forward,	\$1,146.15	

Amount brought forward,	\$1,146.15
S. H. Pittsley, land taken,	42.25
Alfred Mudge & Sons, printing,	70.76
C. A. Hack & Son, printing,	16.20
W. L. Puffer, printing and postal cards,	11.00
Mandeville & Co., printing,	2.25
Pratt Bros., printing,	1.50
Thomas Groom & Co., assessors' book,	1.75
Lewis Porter, stock for hearse house,	10.46
S. D. Simpson & Son, varnishing hearse,	15.00
F. S. Howard, returning deaths,	1.00
W. H. Tobey, " "	.50
McCann Bros., " "	.25
Z. A. Jenkins, cement and lime,	8.25
Owen Conlon, labor South Cemetery,	3.00
Friend W. Howard, care of cemetery,	3.00
D. S. Thayer, gravel,	15.00
J. E. Ryder, gravel,	4.70
H. J. LeLacheur, gravel,	4.20
Frank Burrell, care of monument grounds,	4.00
John H. Adams, repairs road scraper, etc.,	3.00
Benjamin Perkins,	1.00
C. E. Tisdale, cash expense and postage,	.90
J. A. Shores, use of team, cash expense and postage,	41.48
H. W. Howard, use of team, cash expense and postage,	41.87
C. T. Williams, use of team, cash ex- pense, etc.,	9.26
A. S. Lyon, for door,	5.00
C. R. Packard,	7.77
	<hr/>
	\$1,471.50

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Appropriation for 1890,	\$3,500.00
Appropriation for repairs and supplies,	450.00
State school fund,	215.87
	<hr/>
	\$4,165.87
There has been drawn from the treasury for the support of schools,	\$3,656.51
For repairs,	365.17
For supplies,	150.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,171.68
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$5.81

STATE AID.

George N. Blanchard,	\$108.00
William Britton,	72.00
Charles E. Churchill,	72.00
William Crockett,	48.00
Lucius Dunbar,	72.00
Patrick Dorgan,	60.00
James P. Gallagher,	60.00
William H. Jennings,	72.00
James H. Leonard,	72.00
Charles E. Miller,	48.00
Charles T. Morse,	72.00
John A. Millett,	60.00
Andrew W. Perkins,	60.00
William B. Smith,	60.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$936.00

Amount brought forward,	\$936.00
Horace N. Weld,	72.00
Mary E. Alger,	48.00
Mary E. Howard,	48.00
Elizabeth O. Packard,	48.00
Mary J. Reeves,	48.00
Eliza F. Richardson,	48.00
Clarisa K. Howland,	48.00
Henry Hiatt,	32.00
Thomas Cook,	32.00
Linus E. Hayward,	12.00
Michael Logue,	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,375.00

MILITARY AID.

Under Chapter 279, Acts 1889.

Isaac H. Bates,	\$72.00
Linus E. Hayward,	64.00
Thomas Mason,	92.00
Edward F. Hassett,	8.00
	<hr/>
	\$236.00

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$1,000.00
Curtis Eddy, auditor,	\$2.50
Lucius Gurney, auditor,	2.50
George M. Pratt, auditor,	2.50
Charles E. Tisdale, treasurer,	200.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$207.50

Amount brought forward,	\$207.50
Charles E. Tisdale, election officer,	1.65
George C. Howard, moderator,	3.00
Charles R. Packard, town clerk,	50.87
M. K. Crosby, superintendent of schools,	115.00
M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	10.00
M. K. Crosby, care of supplies,	15.00
F. S. Tisdale, school committee,	3.00
Benjamin Perkins, school committee,	6.75
J. A. Fobes, registrar,	5.00
Lucius Dunbar, registrar,	5.50
Edward H. Keith, registrar,	5.00
D. W. Gardner, constable,	18.75
Ellis R. Holbrook,	9.92
J. A. Shores, selectman, assessor, etc.,	239.10
H. W. Howard, selectman, assessor, etc.,	193.00
C. T. Williams, selectman, assessor, etc.,	141.35
	<hr/>
	1,030.39
Overdrawn,	\$30.39
Appropriation for memorial service,	\$100.00
There has been paid upon bills approved by the committee, C. C. Thayer, chairman,	90.90

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation,	\$3,000.00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved by the road commissioners,	2,936.31

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the treasury February 1, 1890,	\$3,487.35
Town of Dedham,	6.00
Balance of corporation tax,	24.75
For digging grave,	3.00
Borrowed of Frank Dunbar,	2,000.00
Borrowed of Frank Dunbar,	2,000.00
Tax bills for 1890,	15,115.55
Police Court of Brockton,	5.00
Corporation tax,	741.30
National Bank tax,	533.56
State aid, Chapter 301,	1,264.50
Military aid, Chapter 279,	123.00
From Mary Rogers' estate,	34.09
Income of school fund,	215.87
Dog fund,	346.58
Interest on 1887 and 1888 taxes from February 1,	
1890 to February 1, 1891,	75.76
From Mrs. Gifford's estate,	58.47
	<hr/>
	\$26,034.78

EXPENDITURES.

Six months interest on loan,	\$80.00
Six per cent. discount on taxes paid on or before	
October 15,	792.10
Frank Dunbar, note and interest,	2,065.00
Frank Dunbar, note and interest,	2,040.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$4,977.10

Amount brought forward,	\$4,977.10
County tax,	1,199.26
Brockton Savings Bank, note and interest,	2,040.00
Six months interest on loan,	40.00
State tax,	875.00
Town officers,	1,030.39
Schools,	3,656.51
School repairs,	365.17
School supplies,	150.00
Town farm,	324.50
Poor out of house,	1,150.81
Highways and sidewalks,	2,936.31
Lectures,	100.00
Library,	351.56
Memorial service,	90.90
Abatement,	230.14
State aid,	1,375.00
Military aid,	236.00
Incidentals,	1,471.50
Cash and uncollected taxes, February 1, 1891,	3,434.63
	<hr/>
	\$26,034.78

Condition of the Treasury February 1, 1891.

Cash on hand,	\$2,724.86
Uncollected taxes,	709.77
	<hr/>
	\$3,434.63

Outstanding note against the town.

Loaned from Brockton Savings Bank \$2,000, payable November 1, 1891.

In obedience to the instructions of the town the undersigned have examined the accounts of all town officers for

the year ending January 31, 1891. We find all orders drawn by the Selectmen properly vouched by receipted bills.

GEORGE M. PRATT, }
LUCIUS GURNEY, } *Auditors.*

NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting:

Albert L. Alger,	Elihu Leonard,
Pardon K. Bacon,	John A. Millet,
Bradford Copeland,	Herbert A. Millet,
Frank Copeland,	Seba H. Marshall,
Davis Copeland,	Charles R. Packard,
Geo. S. Drake,	Japhet Packard,
Curtis Eddy,	Myron Packard,
Linus E. Hayward,	Ira Pratt,
Horace W. Howard,	William F. Ryder,
Frank L. Howard,	Almon Rounds,
Francis E. Howard,	Molbry A. Ripley,
George C. Howard,	Joseph A. Shores,
Julius Hayward,	Prescott T. Snell,
Jonas Hartwell,	Chester A. Thayer,
John L. Hayward,	Abial Washburn,
Warren C. Kinney,	Charles T. Williams.
George H. Knapp,	

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1890.

William Shipman,	George W. Howard,
Erland Thayer,	Edward H. Keith,
Loren A. Flagg.	

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE

For support of poor,	\$1,500.00
support of schools,	3,500.00
school repairs and supplies,	450.00
Highways and sidewalks,	3,000.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
public lectures,	100.00
paying town debt,	2,000.00
interest on town debt,	80.00
memorial service,	100.00

The next annual town meeting will be held on Monday,
the ninth day of March, 1891.

JOS. A. SHORES,	}	<i>Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.</i>
HORACE W. HOWARD,		
CHAS. T. WILLIAMS.		

REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

The Road Commissioners have paid or approved bills to the following named persons for work on roads and side-walks:

James Hennessey,	\$7.50
George Hopkins,	183.36
James McAnaugb,	188.90
Charles Egan,	3.75
Michael Egan,	26.40
Timothy Carroll,	25.25
L. E. Hayward,	42.11
Albert L. Alger,	131.63
Charles C. Thayer,	16.75
Erland Thayer,	87.19
George W. Howard,	133.95
Horace Bartlett,	222.60
Cyrus Alger estate,	126.45
J. E. Ryder,	32.95
P. O. Conner,	23.40
Charles H. Fuller,	91.05
Frances Wyley,	30.75
Michael Morressy,	13.50
W C. Kenney,	60.00
Prescott Snell,	110.25
John O'Bryne,	24.00
James Cunningham,	30.00
George Sites,	20.25
Owen King,	21.00
Charles Vosmus,	3.75
John Luddy,	96.75
Davis Copeland,	81.00

Amount carried forward,

\$1,734.49

Amount brought forward,	\$1,734.49
Barnabas Dunbar,	3.90
Charles Howard,	19.13
E. B. Wilbur,	342.10
Owen Conlon,	35.65
Elihu Leonard,	6.45
Edward Howard,	19.50
Nathan Dunbar,	61.20
P. K. Bacon,	94.10
Charles Martin,	3.50
H. F. Howard,	33.60
Horace W. Howard,	151.80
L. A. Flagg,	18.00
Charles Atwell,	18.55
O. K. Ness,	10.00
A. S. Lyon,	15.50
W. F. Ryder,	256.09
George H. Stone,	3.00
Charles W. Copeland,	7.50
Isam Michell,	2.16
Angus Rice,	6.00
Charles Johnson,	5.25
Bill of 1889,	1.50
	<hr/>
Total,	\$2,948.97
Bills approved but not paid,	12.66
	<hr/>
Amount drawn from treasury,	\$2,936.31

In the spring the Road Commissioners found the roads in some parts of the town much poorer than in other parts, and therefore thought it best not to divide the money among the several districts, but to do the work where it was most needed, and have endeavored to do thorough work and, so far as possible, have made permanent improvements.

The money appropriated for sidewalks has been expended in connection with the road money, thereby utilizing much material that had to be moved that otherwise would have been of little or no value to the roads.

Believing it to be much cheaper and easier to keep roads in repair where sidewalks are built, besides making safe for public travel many places which are now dangerous, the commissioners think it policy for the town to continue to appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars to build and maintain sidewalks in such parts of the town as they are most needed.

Owing to the increased travel on many of the roads and the scarcity of good gravel in most parts of the town, and the long distance which most of it must be carted, the commissioners find the appropriation insufficient to keep the roads in such condition as would be satisfactory to the voters of the town. With the large quantities of stone which clutter up our gravel hills, and the large expense which must necessarily be incurred in removing what might otherwise be our best road material, the commissioners think the time has come that it is not only economy, but important, that the town should provide some way to procure a stone crusher for use in the early spring.

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE

For roads,	\$3,000.00
sidewalks,	500.00

ERLAND THAYER,	} <i>Road Commissioners.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	
WILLIAM F. RYDER,	

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

*Marriages Recorded in West Bridgewater
during the year 1890.*

- Jan. 21. Joseph Andrea of West Bridgewater and Kate Arnet of Easton.
- Feb. 6. Lester P. Ripley of West Bridgewater and Mary J. Hunter of Bridgewater.
- Feb. 12. Parker W. Glass of West Bridgewater and Myra Sprague Lewis of Bridgewater.
- March 5. Walter E. Packard of West Bridgewater and Etta E. Abbott of East Bridgewater.
- May 7. Jasper P. Harvey of Ware and Mary E. Hayward of West Bridgewater.
- June 3. Frederick A. Hambly and Louise F. Bartlett both of West Bridgewater.
- June 18. Francis W. Chamberlain and Florilla Lambert both of West Bridgewater.
- June 19. John Gorman of West Bridgewater and Alice W. Hennessey of East Bridgewater.
- Aug. 22. Charles L. Rollins and Minerva Edson both of East Bridgewater.
- Sept. 4. Harry S. Hall of West Bridgewater and Lizzie A. Emerson of Brockton.
- Sept. 9. Lowell M. Holt and Hattie E. Meader both of West Bridgewater.
- Sept. 10. Joseph L. Collins and Hattie J. Dewyer both of West Bridgewater.
- Sept. 16. George W. Alger and Corelli C. Brown both of West Bridgewater.

- Sept. 16. James W. Hennessey of West Bridgewater and Margaret A. Scanlan of Bridgewater.
- Sept. 24. William S. Conant and Elizabeth F. Cook both of West Bridgewater.
- Oct. 2. John Auguste Silva and Teresa Rosie Silva both of West Bridgewater.
- Oct. 22. Edwin Scott of New York and Annie Cushing Alger of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 3. Warren R. Keith of West Bridgewater and Lizzie St. John Dow of Lowell.
- Nov. 26. George L. LeBaron of West Bridgewater and Lillie E. Fairbanks of Brockton.
- Nov. 29. John Colson and Minnie Nelson both of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 15. Ephriam W. Littlefield and Lillie I. Kendall both of Avon.
- Dec. 22. Frank H. Redmann and Hattie F. Ross both of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 24. Geo. H. Ingalls of West Bridgewater and Lucy B. Braley of Bridgewater.
- Dec. 25. Frank O. Keith of East Bridgewater and Lucy Emma Kane of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 30. William L. Leonard of Easton and Mary J. Phillips of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 30. Asa C. Bennett of Rochester and Annie A. Copeland of West Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1890.

25

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAME OF PARENTS.
1889.			
June	15. Julia Melissa Hysler.....	Female	William S. and Kate Hysler.
October	12. Annie Foye.....	"	William and Mary B. Foye.
1890.			
January	5. Elizabeth Parker Howard.....	Female	Clinton P. and Hattie F. Howard.
"	6. Harold Warren Haven.....	Male	F. W. D. and Lucy A. Haven.
"	15. Leon Westgate Jones.....	"	Herbert M. and Ethel Jones.
"	16. Horace Barnard Lowell.....	"	Francis L. and Charlotte E. Lowell.
"	21. Catherine Louise Cashion.....	Female	Michael and Maggie E. Cashion.
"	29. Harold Hinckley Crocker.....	Male	Edward H. and Clara D. Crocker.
Febru'y	17. Nina Mildred White.....	Female	Edwin H. and Clara B. White.
"	19. Daniel Rupert Conlon.....	Male	Daniel and Jane A. W. Conlon.
April	22. Edith Hill.....	Female	Daniel W. and Sarah E. Hill.
May	1. Nahum Packard Gillespie.....	Male	Farnham and Helen P. Gillespie.
"	4. Dorothy Kendrick.....	Female	Frederick P. and Mary E. Kendrick.
"	18. Francis Rodney Churchill.....	Male	Merton G. and Emma F. Churchill.
June	7. Lena Perkins Fowler.....	Female	Willie A. and Addie J. Fowler.
July	12. Martha E. Hudson.....	"	John R. and Mary E. Hudson.
"	30. Major James Crockett.....	Male	William H. and Christine Crockett.
August	29. Carlton Hall Brooks.....	"	Benjamin F. and Alice M. Brooks.
"	31. Howard Pemberton Merrill.....	"	Charles H. and Eva A. Merrill.
Sept.	28. Not named (still born).....	"	Chester and Cora A. Thayer.
October	12. George Franklin Ellis.....	"	John M. and Betsey J. Ellis.
Nov.	27. Salina Belmore.....	Female	(Octave and Elise Belmore.
Dec.	20. Josiah Wentworth.....	Male	Theodore F. and Dora Y. Wentworth.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1890.

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
Jan. 13.	Louisa Perkins.	85	5	16	Erysipelas.	West Bridgewater.	Daniel and Bathsheba Perkins
" 26.	Michael F. Cunningham.	29	6	11	Pneumonia.	Easton.	Michael and Mary J. Cunningham.
Feb. 12.	Annie W. Gifford.	56			Malignant Erysipelas.	Montpelier, Vt.	Oliver and Dolly Stearns.
" 22.	George G. Thayer.	64	11	5	Locomotor Ataxia.	Brockton.	Ziba and Prudy Thayer.
Mar. 4.	Caleb Copeland, Jr.	1	5	24	Meningitis.	West Bridgewater.	Caleb and Annie E. Copeland.
" 24.	Ellen White.	85			Debility.	Ireland.	Unknown.
May 1.	Amelia Ames.	76	11	1	Inflammation of Bowels.	Plymouth, Vt.	Bennett and Lucy (Sprague) Monroe.
" 5.	Cornelia Alger.	65	3	5	Paralysis of Throat.	West Bridgewater.	Abiezar and Annie (Cushing) Alger.
July 3.	Willard Billings.	80	1	9	Catarrh of Bladder.	West Bridgewater.	Elkanah and Sarah H. (Packard) Billings.
" 3.	Clifton Herbert White.	1	9	23	Convulsions.	Randolph.	Herbert L. and Frances A. (Mansfield) White.
Aug. 14.	John J. Dewyer.	21	9		Carbolic Acid Poisoning.	West Bridgewater.	Michael and Nancy (Kelleher) Dewyer.
" 23.	Thomas Everett Marmion.	1	2	6	Cholera Infantum.	West Bridgewater.	Thomas J. and Catherine (Clegg) Marmion.
Sept. 8.	Joseph Metcalf.	19	4	8	Consumption.	Boston.	Alfred and Annie Metcalf.
" 18.	Cyrus Alger.	65	7	30	Cancer of Bladder.	Easton.	Ansel and Mary (Howard) Alger.
Oct. 24.	Martin Dunbar.	75	9	16	Dysentery.	Brockton.	Martin and Sarah (Alger) Dunbar.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

During the year 1890 there has been added to the library 139 volumes, making the whole number 3,576.

The number of volumes of each class loaned during the year is as follows, viz.:

Agriculture,	11
Art,	30
Biography,	162
Fiction,	2,190
General Literature,	218
History,	172
Humorous Works,	83
Juvenile Works,	814
Magazines,	956
Poetry,	108
Works of Reference,	51
Religion and Theology,	7
Science,	121
Travels,	85
Public Documents,	1
	<hr/>
Total,	5,009

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

From town treasurer,	\$351.56
fines and sales of catalogues, etc.,	15.64
Miss Edith F. Howard,	1.00
Miss S. C. Washburn (binding),	3.30
Mrs. M. K. Crosby,	1.44
	<hr/>
	\$372.94

Expenditures.

Estes & Lauriat (books),	\$130.96
Librarian's salary,	104.36
Magazines,	43.80
C. P. Howard (wood),	2.00
Oil, express, postage and stationery,	11.32
"Book Buyer,"	1.00
Balch Brothers (Century Dictionary),	20.00
D. Appleton & Co. (books),	30.00
Library desk,	25.00
History of the G. A. R.,	4.50
	<hr/>
	\$372.94

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees of the Public Library.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth, ss.:

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater, in
the County of Plymouth, Greeting:*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the ninth day of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question: "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the Selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will raise one hundred dollars for public lectures.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 9. To see if the town will authorize the School Committee to elect a superintendent of schools.

ART. 10. To see if the town will elect its Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor for one, two and three years. (By request.)

ART. 11. To see if the town will raise and appropriate money for memorial services on Memorial Day.

ART. 12. To see if the town will raise and appropriate money for the purchase of a stone crusher and power. (By request.)

ART. 13. To determine the manner of collecting the taxes the ensuing year.

ART. 14. To see what action the town will take in reference to building a new almshouse. (By request.)

ART. 15. To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of Chapter 51 of the Revised Statutes in relation to abutters paying betterments.

ART. 16. To see if the town will instruct the Road Commissioners to lay out a street, from West street through land owned by Sullivan Bros., and land owned by D. R. Simmons and others to High street. (By request.)

ART. 17. To see if the town will instruct its collector to collect all poll taxes where there is no property tax, on or before September 15th.

ART. 18. To see if the town will raise and appropriate money for the repair of Osier street. (By request.)

ART. 19. To see if the town will instruct the Road Commissioners to contract with the Brockton Electric Light Company for five years to light North Main street, from Brockton line to Gerry's Corner; Copeland avenue and Copeland street, from Brockton line to North Centre school, and make appropriations for the same. (By petition.)

ART. 20. To see if the town will instruct the Road Commissioners to contract with the Brockton Electric Light Company for five years to light the centre of the town from the depot to R. C. Bennett's, and from the depot to Benjamin

Howard's, and from G. R. Drake's to C. T. Morse's; also Cochesett village, from E. Tisdale's to C. T. Williams', and from Centre street to the depot. (By request.)

ART. 21. To see if the town will instruct the School Committee to provide conveyance and pay car fare to and from the Howard Seminary for town pupils attending the same. (By petition.)

ART. 22. To see if the town will accept Holmes street and Millett street, as laid out by the Road Commissioners, and appropriate money for building the same. (By request.)

ART. 23. To see if the town will raise one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to repair the Almshouse. (By request.)

ART. 24. To see if the town will raise money to purchase a piano for the High School. (By request.)

ART. 25. To see if the town will raise money to furnish the town scholars attending the High School with the whole or any part of their supplies. (By request.)

ART. 26. To see if the town will vote to sell the unoccupied building formerly used by the South School. (By request.)

ART. 27. To transact any business that may legally come before the meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant, according to the vote of said town, seven days at least before the time appointed for said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the clerk of said town, at or before the time appointed for the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands, at said West Bridgewater, this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,
HORACE W. HOWARD,
CHARLES T. WILLIAMS,

Selectmen of West Bridgewater.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1890-91 the following were members of the committee :

Mrs. A. S. LeLACHEUR and B. PERKINS, for three years.

J. A. SHORES and Mrs. M. K. CROSBY, for two years.

F. S. TISDALE and C. T. HOWARD, for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows :

J. A. SHORES, *Chairman*.

M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.

F. S. TISDALE and B. PERKINS, *Committee on Repairs*.

B. PERKINS and C. T. HOWARD, *Truant Officers*.

The schools were assigned as follows :

North and North Center to Mr. Perkins.

Cochesett to Mr. Tisdale.

Centre to Mrs. LeLacheur.

South to Mr. Shores.

East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.

Jerusalem to Mr. Howard.

To J. A. Shores, A. S. LeLacheur and M. K. Crosby was assigned the examination of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHER'S REPORT.

Paid	Miss A. M. Hayward,	20 weeks,	\$180.00
"	Miss L. W. Copeland,	26 "	260.00
"	Miss G. A. Stone,	8 "	80.00
"	Miss L. Allen,		330.00
"	Miss I. S. Wood,		340.00
"	Miss C. C. Brown,	14 "	126.00
"	Miss L. V. Wesel,	34 "	340.00
"	Miss W. A. Holmes,	34 "	340.00
"	Miss A. A. Frawley,	14 "	140.00
"	Miss M. M. Ballou,	20 "	200.00
"	Miss M. A. Dewyer,	34 "	340.00
"	Miss M. C. Keith,	34 "	306.00
"	Mrs. L. M. Toothaker,	34 "	340.00
			<hr/>
			\$3,322.00

JANITORS' DEPARTMENT.

Paid for	Jerusalem,	\$11.00
	Cochesett,	22.00
	Centre,	23.00
	South,	12.00
	East,	12.00
	Matfield,	12.00
	North,	12.00
	North Centre,	12.00
		<hr/>
		\$116.00

FUEL DEPARTMENT.

Paid L. E. & E. Copeland, 2 cords oak wood and labor,	\$12.50
C. Keene, labor on wood,	12.75
G. J. Kingman, labor on wood,	6.75
Gillespie Bros., $5\frac{3}{4}$ cords oak wood and labor,	41.63
“ “ $1\frac{1}{4}$ cords pine wood, etc.,	8.88
F. J. Hambly, $\frac{1}{2}$ cord pine wood,	2.00
W. Penpraise, labor on wood,	3.75
C. H. Morrison, labor on wood,	.75
E. T. Snell, 7 cords oak wood,	35.00
“ “ 2 cords pine wood,	8.00
Owen King, labor on wood,	24.00
H. Bartlett, 1 cord of oak wood,	5.50
P. K. Bacon, 1 cord pine wood and labor,	6.00
Mrs. H. Copeland, 3 cords oak wood and labor,	21.00
Mrs. H. Copeland, 1 cord pine wood, etc.,	6.00
J. E. Ryder, 4 cords hard wood,	20.00
M. K. Crosby, 1 cord pine wood,	4.00
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	\$218.51

Expenditures.

Teachers' wages,	\$3,322.00
Fuel,	218.51
Janitors,	116.00
Balance,	59.36
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	\$3,715.87

Receipts.

Town grant,	\$3,500.00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	215.87
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	\$3,715.87

DEPARTMENT OF REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid G. R. Drake, painters' stock,	\$19.12
C. P. Hilstrum, labor and stock,	37.10
C. Thayer, labor and stock for moulding boards,	12.70
Alger's express,	5.20
F. W. Howard, repairs on fence and pump,	10.96
B. H. Waugh, labor,	27.45
“ “ stock and carting,	14.45
“ “ mason work and carting,	36.59
Albert Copeland, labor at Matfield and stock,	24.87
“ “ labor,	74.38
“ “ stock,	10.75
“ “ blackboard dressing,	13.75
Five maps of Massachusetts,	25.00
Small supplies for repairs,	1.65
Clearing at Centre after repairs,	2.75
	<hr/>
	\$316.72

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	\$6.90
Cochesett,	8.62
South,	3.17
Centre,	14.73
East,	3.75
Matfield,	4.55
North,	4.28
North Centre,	2.45
	<hr/>
	\$48.45

Whole amount of repairs,	\$365.17
Town grant,	300.00
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Deficiency,	\$65.17

The school census, taken for May 1, 1890, by the committee, gave 272 children in town between five and fifteen years of age. Of these 225 were in the common schools, 4 in the Howard school, 3 in parochial schools, 11 (7 of these over 14 years) at work, 4 sick, 19 young and not yet in school, and 6 out for other reasons.

The provision made for cases of habitual truancy was the same as that for the last three years.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 1891-92.

SPRING TERM, 14 weeks. March 2 to June 12, 1891.

Recess. Fast Day week.

FALL TERM, 12 weeks. Sept. 1 to Nov. 20, 1891.

WINTER TERM, 8 weeks. Nov. 30 to Jan. 29, 1892.

Recess. Christmas week.

If changes in this calendar are called for in special cases, they will be arranged by the proper officials.

It has been thought advisable to shorten the afternoon sessions of our schools and thus conform to the custom now fully established in the large towns, as well as in many of the smaller ones of the state.

When making preparations to repair what appeared to be only a small break in the plastering at the Centre Grammar building, it was found that the whole ceiling was ready to fall without warning.

The expense of removing this danger and of putting the room into presentable condition by repainting, will account for a deficiency in the repair department.

An official inspection of some of our school buildings in March, was followed by the receipt of an order requiring changes in the grammar building at the Centre, some of which were made in the summer.

In August the new deputy inspector, by request of the School Committee, met them at the building designated, and as the result of this conference we received permission to make arrangements for better ventilation in some room of less capacity than the one first examined, and also to postpone the work until the season of 1891, when it must be completed.

To provide for the change required, it will be seen that we ask for an increased sum under general repairs.

We have renewed the application for permission to sell the unoccupied school house in the South district, as the larger building affords ample accomodation for more pupils than the school is likely to number for many years.

During this year the South and Matfield buildings have had outside painting, and the schoolhouses in the East and Cochesett districts, will require like attention the coming year.

The appropriations recommended for this year are these :

For the support of schools,	\$3,500.00
For furnishings and repairs,	450.00
For text-books and supplies,	150.00

Two members are to be chosen upon the School Board for three years, at the annual town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. SHORES,	} <i>School Committee.</i>
M. K. CROSBY,	
A. S. LeLACHEUR,	
F. S. TISDALE,	
B. PERKINS,	

WEST BRIDGWATER, Feb. 1, 1891.

SCHOOLS.		Length in weeks.	Scholars enrolled.	Average membership.	Average attendance.	Not absent or tardy.	Over fifteen years.	Less than five years.	Wages per month.
SPRING TERM.	South	14	28	24.5	22.53	4	0	0	\$40
	Centre Grammar.....	14	25	23.3	20.7	0	0	0	40
	Centre Primary.....	14	22	20.64	19.4	0	0	0	36
	East.....	14	31	30.	27.8	8	2	0	40
	Matfield	14	22	18.36	16.33	0	1	1	40
	North	14	24	21.35	20.9	10	3	2	36
	North Centre.....	15	20	19.2	18.	0	1	1	40
	Cochesett Grammar.....	13	19	16.	11.9	2	2	0	40
	Cochesett Primary.....	13	27	26.	18.8	0	0	0	40
	Jerusalem	14	30	27.2	23.5	1	0	0	40
FALL TERM.	South	12	30	24.83	20.18	0	0	0	36
	Centre Grammar.....	12	22	18.4	16.4	0	0	0	40
	Centre Primary.....	12	23	22.8	20.3	0	0	0	40
	East.....	12	31	27.	25.9	7	1	0	40
	Matfield.....	12	25	23.8	22.13	0	2	0	40
	North	12	30	19.9	19.4	6	0	0	36
	North Centre.....	12	28	22.6	20.24	1	1	1	40
	Cochesett Grammar.....	12	23	20.	18.4	4	2	0	40
	Cochesett Primary.....	12	26	24.5	20.7	4	0	0	40
	Jerusalem.....	12	32	30.7	26.	1	0	1	40
WINTER TERM.	South.....	8	27	24.12	20.2	0	0	0	36
	Centre Grammar.....	8	18	17.7	15.5	1	1	0	40
	Centre Primary.....	8	24	20.9	19.1	0	0	0	40
	East	8	28	26.5	24.5	6	1	0	40
	Matfield	8	24	22.	19.	1	2	0	40
	North	8	26	22.5	17.7	3	0	0	36
	North Centre.	7	22	20.8	18.8	2	0	1	40
	Cochesett Grammar	9	21	20.25	16.76	3	2	0	40
	Cochesett Primary	9	24	24.	20.2	0	0	0	40
	Jerusalem.....	8	31	28.8	19.7	6	0	0	40

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The schools entrusted to my care for the year just closing have continued work according to the plan explained in previous reports.

This plan conforms as far as practicable to the schedule proposed by the state officials for ungraded schools, and it covers the period beginning with admission to the primary class and ending with preparation for high school work.

It should be constantly kept in mind by pupils and their friends that to obtain satisfactory preparation for promotion, pupils must be regular in attendance and diligent in study, throughout their school life.

In selecting school supplies, advantage has been taken of improved means for illustrating and making attractive the subjects of study.

The different grades have been provided with a variety of fresh and interesting reading for class use, and the teachers' have been urged to give frequent and regular exercises in voice training.

The Calisthenics or physical exercises practised in most of our schools have a direct influence for good upon the voices of the pupils in reading and singing.

A few wall maps of Massachusetts have been purchased and arrangements made for each school to use one for half of the year.

Several teachers have made excellent use in teaching geography, of the moulding board with which each school is furnished. It is a pleasant surprise to most visitors, and always a delight to the pupils, to see mountain ranges,

plateaus and plains, rapidly appear in damp sand within a country outlined upon the board, and the great value of this method of studying the surface of any country cannot be questioned.

More attention has been given to rapid map drawing with good results.

There is, perhaps, no other school study that affords such scope for ingenuity and special genius, as geography, and teachers can achieve success in this branch only by an enthusiastic use of their powers, natural and acquired.

The earlier afternoon dismissal adopted by the school board, permits the substitution of a brief recess in place of the longer one previously given, without endangering the health of the children, and it lessens the opportunities for physical and moral injury that so often attend the intermingling of the young during the periods of recess and intermission at school.

With the crowded programs of our ungraded schools, the teachers often find great advantage in retaining one or more classes for undisturbed study and recitation after the main portion of the school has been dismissed.

A change of teachers occurred at the close of the summer term, in three schools.

Miss Frawley of the East school felt obliged, on account of ill health, to give up the position she had most ably and successfully filled for several years.

Miss Mollie M. Ballou a pupil from the Worcester Normal school, took the vacant place with an understanding that the previous teacher might return to it after an absence of one term; but before the term closed, finding her health greatly improved by the respite, Miss Frawley accepted a position in the schools of Malden.

Miss Ballou has continued in this school giving good satisfaction by her tact and ability.

Miss Brown withdrew from the Centre primary school, which she entered more than two years ago, without

experience in teaching, but with a spirit of devotion to her work that gave promise of the good degree of success she attained in the school.

Miss W. A. Holmes at her own request, was transferred from the South school to the vacancy at the Centre. It is fortunate for our town that we have not lost the valuable services of Miss Holmes, in her seeking a change from long continued and devoted labor in the South district.

The pupils of both the South and East schools deserve praise for the cordial and helpful spirit with which they received the successors of their much loved teachers. No stronger testimony could be given by them to the permanent value of the work of those teachers.

Miss Alice M. Hayward, a graduate of the Normal school at Bridgewater, who succeeded Miss Holmes in the South school, has spared no effort to maintain the previous good standing of that school in deportment and study, and her diligent labor has been attended with good results.

After the Thanksgiving recess, Miss Georgie A. Stone, of Easton, took charge of the Jerusalem school (leaving a good position in the schools of Athol for this purpose), in place of Miss Copeland who resigned to secure for herself much needed rest.

At the time Miss Copeland entered upon her duties, the school numbered but fifteen, while at her leaving, after more than two years of faithful work, its enrollment was thirty-two.

This unexpected increase, together with quite irregular attendance from various causes, made the work of the teacher far more arduous than was anticipated.

Miss Stone has, by her earnestness and vigor, maintained good order and secured a satisfactory amount of study from the pupils that have been present, but the attendance through the winter has been very small, owing to the weather and sickness.

It is to be hoped that the next term will open with full

numbers, and that the register will show few absences for the whole year.

It should be said for our teachers in general, that their fidelity and zeal call for appreciative thanks and cordial co-operation from the community, whose welfare is most closely connected with the prosperity of our public schools.

Removals to and from the town continue to disturb the regularity of school work.

Whole number of pupils enrolled for the year,	295
Number that have left town,	24
Number that have moved into town,	30

By a law enacted in 1889 the time of yearly school attendance has been extended to thirty weeks, and the penalty for neglect of this law

“Is a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, forfeit to the use of the public schools of the city or town.”

During the year eight “age and schooling certificates” have been issued to children, all of whom were above fourteen years of age and had complied with the conditions imposed by the law.

The next examination for entrance to the Howard High School will be in June.

The requirements for admission to regular standing remain the same as last year, including the testimonial that applicants are expected to present from their recent teachers, showing good deportment and earnestness in study.

The last class admitted numbered 11, and its members have, by faithful work and regular and punctual attendance, met the approval of their teachers in the school.

The total membership of the High school from January, 1890, has been 35, and the attendance since last September 95.89 per cent.

Irregular attendance on the part of a few pupils has brought the per cent. below the high standard that the best

scholarship demands. In all schools it is generally the pupils most in need of school-room instruction who have frequent and inexcusable absences.

In our common schools some allowance has to be made for the distance that many of the young children live from the school-house.

Ventilation and sanitation have been brought prominently before the school authorities, as will be seen in the report of the committee.

Attention to these important subjects has not been neglected in our schools, but with the imperfect arrangements and means at command, it is impossible to reach the standard demanded by the laws of health as well as by the statutes.

The annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Public Buildings, etc., says, with great truth:

“ In many school-rooms the average purity of the air would be raised if the teachers should insist that their scholars should be cleanly in their persons and clothing.”

But *can they insist?* Not until our legislators provide, by law, for an inspection of the homes of the pupils and require bath-rooms and laundries connected with school-houses.

No teacher should be in charge of a school who is not actively alive to the necessity of cleanliness and pure air for the best development of both body and mind.

Proper ventilation requires the constant removal of the foul air with the introduction of an equal amount of pure air.

It is unnecessary to urge the absolute need of a large and constant supply of pure air for the preservation of health, but it is difficult to secure this supply amid the varying circumstances of daily life.

One important step will be gained when children can breathe reasonably clean, fresh air while in school.

Outdoor air contains about four parts of carbonic acid gas in ten thousand parts of air, and if the quantity is increased to eight parts the air is made unfit for continued breathing.

Good authorities give thirty cubic feet of air per minute as the smallest amount that should be furnished each person, and fifty feet is preferable. The short time in which fifty persons would vitiate the air of a good-sized school-room can readily be calculated.

The report alluded to contains records of a large number of observations made to ascertain the fitness of the air for respiration in school buildings warmed by the old methods and also in those heated and ventilated by the different improved systems.

The new systems are fully described and illustrated, and statements from a host of school officials and teachers are quoted, bearing testimony to the beneficial effects that have followed the adoption of the new appliances.

The only method yet presented that seems applicable to single school rooms is that of the jacketed stove.

It is claimed for this that "When the conditions of success are observed, it is possible to secure perfect, or nearly perfect, ventilation."

The heat is all saved by having the stove in the room. The jacket protects those sitting near from an excess of heat. A large amount of moderately heated air is furnished, the air being admitted from outside the building to the space within the jacket and there heated before it is distributed throughout the room. All parts of the room are equally warmed by this method and the teacher can readily supervise the whole apparatus.

An ample ventilating shaft sufficiently warmed to secure the outward passage of the foul air must accompany this stove.

After the first expense of introduction the cost is not greatly in excess of former methods of heating.

There can be no reason to doubt that the town will now, as in the past, accede to all reasonable suggestions or requirements for the improvement of its public schools.

Every intelligent, public spirited citizen must desire to have our schools share in the advantages and progress that characterize the present age.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTHA K. CROSBY.

1890-91.

REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

The town appropriation for school supplies has been expended as follows :

To the Thorp & Adams Manufacturing Company,	
paper, pencils, pens and other supplies,	\$50.19
Harper & Bros., copy books and spelling blanks,	14.67
Interstate Publishing Company, readers,	9.81
D. Appleton & Co., readers and histories,	15.59
Iverson, Blakeman & Company, spellers and	
geographies,	43.42
William Ware & Co., arithmetics,	6.25
J. B. Lippincott & Co., dictionaries,	6.60
Prang Educational Co., drawing supplies,	2.15
Postage,	2.58
	<hr/>
	\$151.26
 Inventory of stock on hand January 31, 1890,	 \$20.53
Amount drawn from town treasury,	150.00
Cash received for books,	1.26
	<hr/>
	\$171.79
 Inventory of new stock on hand Jan. 31, 1891,	 \$19.99
Supplies furnished schools,	151.80
	<hr/>
	\$171.79

Inventory of new supplies on hand, Jan. 31, 1891.

10 spellers,	\$1.67
15½ dozen copy-books,	12.40
3 dozen composition books,	1.00
1 dozen drawing books,	1.50

Miscellaneous.

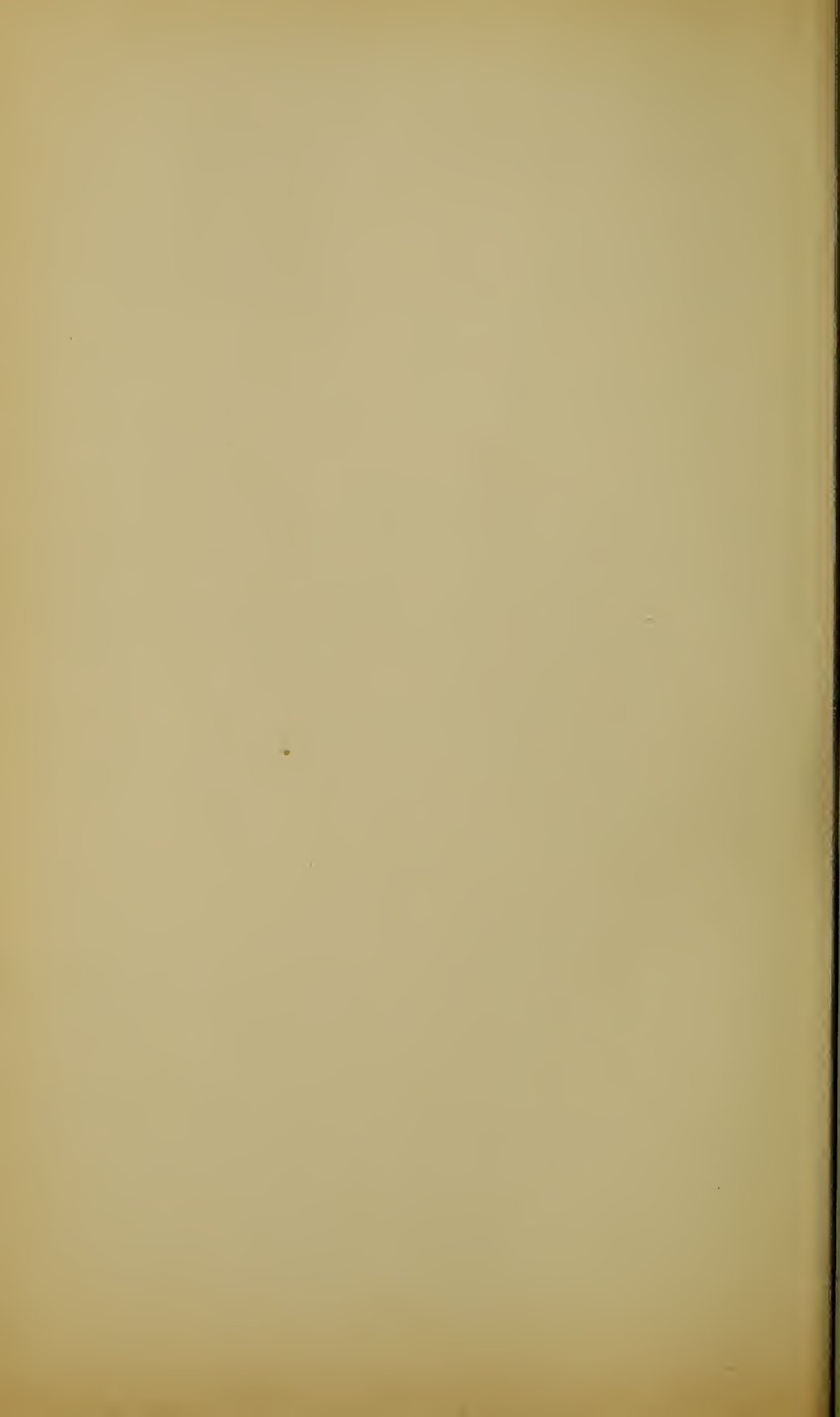
Pens, pencils, crayons and erasers,	3.42
	<hr/>
	\$19.99

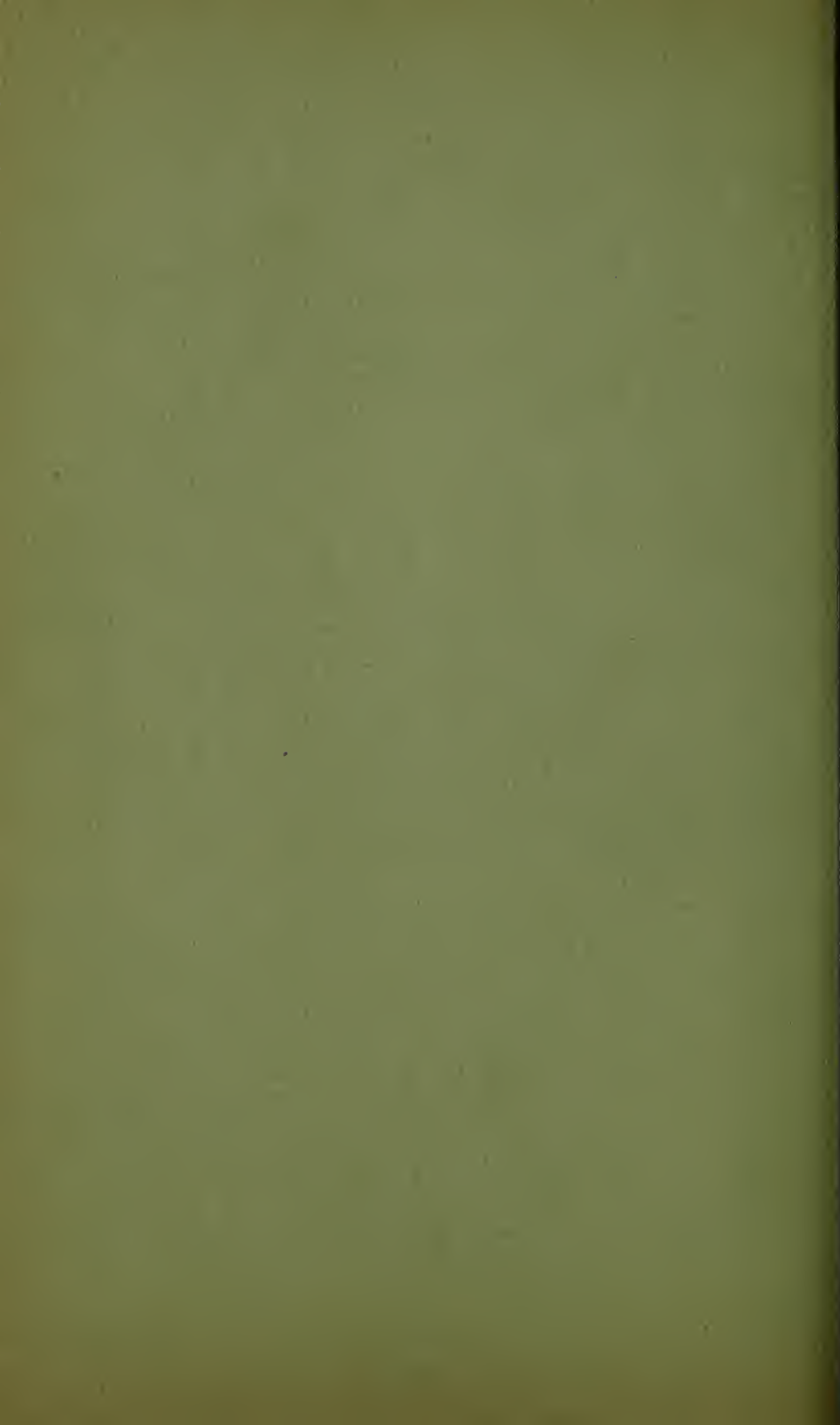
The text books kept by the agent after their first use in schools, to be in readiness for transfer to other schools, are not included in the inventory.

The average number of pupils enrolled in the schools is 254; the cost of supplies provided by the town has been \$151.80, or 59.7 cents per scholar.

Respectfully submitted,

M. K. CROSBY.





PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER

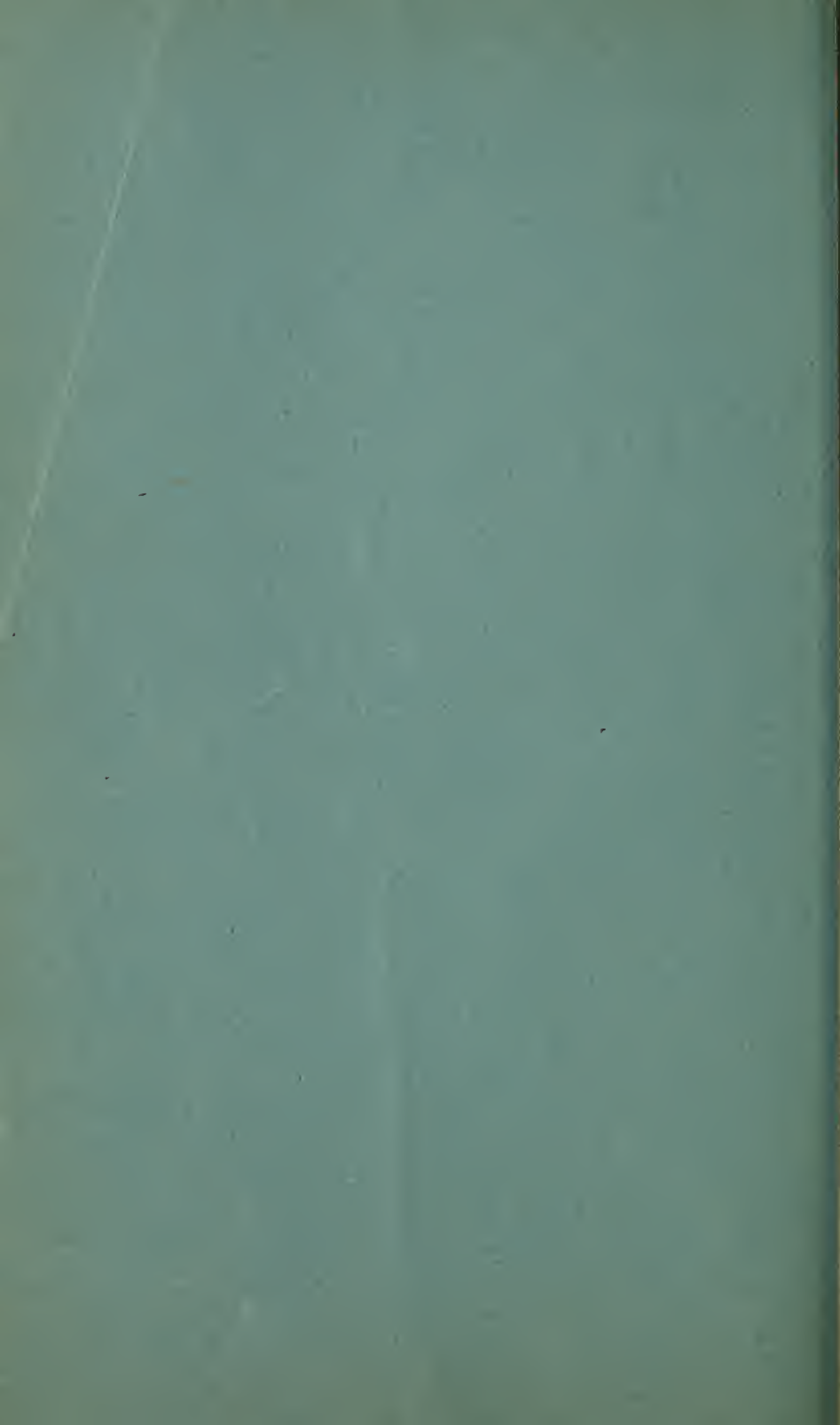
FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1892.

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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1891.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND ASSESSORS.

JOSEPH A. SHORES, E. BRADFORD WILBUR,
HORACE W. HOWARD.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

CHARLES E. TISDALE.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY, JOSEPH A. SHORES,
GEO. C. HOWARD, MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,
WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH, BENJAMIN PERKINS.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

CHARLES R. PACKARD, MRS. EMELINE B. COPELAND,
MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN, MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,
JOSEPH A. SHORES, HORACE M. WILLARD.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

ERLAND THAYER, WILLIAM F. RYDER,
E. BRADFORD WILBUR.

CONSTABLES.

ELLIS R. HOLBROOK, JOSIAH A. PERKINS,
DANIEL W. GARDNER.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

FIELD DRIVERS.

GEO. W. HOWARD, OCTAVE BELMORE,
MYRON A. SNELL, D. W. GARDNER.

FENCE VIEWERS.

S. G. COPELAND, J. Q. HARTWELL, JOSEPH C. HOWARD,

MEASURERS OF LUMBER.

LESTER P. RIPLEY, HERBERT L. WHITE,
C. P. HOWARD, LOREN A. FLAGG.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

PARDON K. BACON, GEORGE H. STONE,
J. E. RYDER, C. WESLEY PACKARD.

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FOBES, LUCIUS DUNBAR, EDWARD H. KEITH.

AUDITORS.

GEORGE M. PRATT, LUCIUS GURNEY.

POUND KEEPER.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town, February 1, 1892, is respectfully submitted:

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION,

As Assessed May 1, 1891.

Value of real estate,	\$884,537.00
Value of personal estate,	177,637.00
Total,	<hr/> \$1,062,174.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$750.00	
County tax,	1,199.26	
	<hr/>	\$1,949.26
Town grant,	\$13,680.00	
Overlay,	469.71	
	<hr/>	\$14,149.71
Total tax,		<hr/> \$16,098.97

Rate of tax, \$14.25 per \$1,000. Poll tax—Males, \$2.00 ;
females, 50c.

Number of polls, males,	498
females,	3
acres of land,	9,847
dwelling houses,	402
horses,	394
cows,	680
sheep,	7
swine,	71
young stock,	112

APPROPRIATIONS.

For support of schools,	\$3,500.00
school supplies and repairs,	600.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
public lectures,	100.00
memorial service,	100.00
interest on town debt,	80.00
paying town debt,	2,000.00
Osier street,	300.00
Holmes and Millet streets,	300.00
	<hr/>
	\$13,680.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Valuation of town farm	\$4,000.00
personal property,	1,552.00
ten school-houses,	13,000.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	100.00
road scraper,	100.00

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	} <i>Assessors.</i>
HORACE W. HOWARD,	
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE, FEBRUARY 1, 1892.

8 tons English hay,	\$144.00
12 tons meadow and swale hay,	120.00
corn fodder and barley,	12.00
corn shorts and meal,	40.00
3 $\frac{3}{4}$ bushels of beans,	8.00
10 cows,	400.00
1 horse,	125.00
19 fowls,	14.25
3 ducks,	1.50
80 bushels potatoes,	56.00
3 bushels onions,	3.00
250 pounds pork,	20.00
40 pounds lard,	4.00
10 pounds butter,	3.00
crackers,	.50
1 barrel flour,	6.50
groceries,	5.00
2 pork barrels,	1.00
soap and oil,	2.00
hay knife,	1.25
express wagon,	10.00
step ladder,	1.25
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenters' tools,	9.00
hay cutter,	4.00
5 stoves,	20.00
grind stone,	4.00

Amount carried forward,

\$1,019.25

Amount brought forward,	\$1,019.25
household furniture,	40.00
tinware,	5.00
crockery, etc.,	10.00
3 churns,	8.00
woodenware,	8.00
beds and bedding,	45.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
hay wagon,	30.00
covered wagon,	50.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
pung,	8.00
harnesses,	30.00
4 ox yokes,	8.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	8.00
robes and blankets,	7.00
mowing machine and rake,	40.00
5 plows, 3 harrows and other tools,	40.00
horse sled,	7.00
manure and ashes,	125.00
coal,	1.00
2 ladders,	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,545.25

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

Cash for milk,	\$173.74
cow,	25.00
eggs,	1.00
drawn from treasury, warden's salary,	50.00
“ “ “ C. T. Williams' bill,	19.57
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$269.31

Amount brought forward,	\$269.31
Drawn from treasury, F. W. Alger, meat,	11.71
F. J. Hambly, wood,	4.00
J. M. Howard, groceries,	15.90
A. W. Perkins, mending boots,	.50
C. S. Palmer, horse shoeing,	2.23
J. O. Dean, grain,	185.30
	<hr/>
	\$488.95

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

Paid for meat,	\$6.90
groceries,	14.21
oil,	1.60
clothing,	6.45
flour,	8.55
tobacco,	1.63
cow,	44.50
house furnishings,	1.59
coal and wood,	20.00
grain,	290.93
labor,	2.58
Mrs. Fadden,	6.00
Warden, two months' salary,	50.00
C. T. Williams, cabbage and carrots,	19.57
F. W. Alger, meat,	11.71
A. W. Perkins, boots,	.50
C. S. Palmer, horse shoeing,	2.23
	<hr/>
	\$488.95

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE AFTER APRIL 1ST.

Cash for milk	\$1,042.30
Stock,	153.50
Vegetables,	19.52
Onions,	39.75
Potatoes,	137.42
Poultry,	12.10
Eggs,	23.24
Pork,	88.94
Apples,	5.52
Squash,	6.44
Peas,	7.25
Cucumbers,	72.70
Corn,	15.63
Drawn from treasury for J. C. Swan,	7.50
" " " E. R. Hayward, fertilizers,	54.60
" " " J. A. Fuller,	40.00
" " " Samuel H. Howard,	20.32
" " " J. H. Adams,	12.11
" " " W. H. Flagg,	4.25
" " " Parker & Wood,	4.75
	<hr/>
	\$1,767.84

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE AFTER APRIL 1ST.

Paid for flour,	\$34.80
meat,	112.91
fish,	12.95
wooden ware,	4.10
grass and garden seed,	13.57
blacksmithing,	12.11
clothing,	14.76
soap,	5.79
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$210.99

Amount brought forward,	\$210.99
lard,	2.10
sugar,	14.40
potatoes,	26.79
car fare,	1.25
shoes,	7.05
repairs of harness,	5.05
tobacco,	9.64
salt,	1.77
Paid for fertilizer,	79.00
groceries,	102.90
grain,	494.23
farming tools,	15.25
oil,	6.32
stock,	258.10
repairs,	5.70
sundries,	11.35
beans,	2.65
labor,	119.23
apples,	2.75
team work,	37.32
crackers,	5.86
J. C. Swan, medical attendance,	7.50
warden's salary, 10 months,	291.67
Cash on hand February 1, 1892,	48.97
	<hr/>
	\$1,767.84

COST OF SUPPORTING THE POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from the treasury per almshouse account,	\$432.74
Loss in inventory from February 1, 1891, to February 1, 1892,	273.60
	<hr/>
	\$706.34
Cash on hand,	48.97
	<hr/>
	\$657.37

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	78	52
Albert Staples,	49	52
Conn Sullivan,	57	49
George Randall,	65	8
Michael Ryan,	43	10

The warden during the year has lodged and fed forty tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Frank Fadden's children,	\$120.00
Fred Leonard,	208.00
Olive B. Shaw,	126.00
Mary Sullivan,	78.00
Abbie Fadden,	25.50
George Randall,	70.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	131.00
Charles E. Williams,	24.00
Anson Cobbett,	26 45
Mrs. Kenney,	82.22
George N. Blanchard,	117.50
Chas. T. Hayward's children,	90.00
Charles W. Elliott,	38.10
Michael Lynch,	2.07
Edward Kenney, (burial)	12.00
Joseph Metcalf, (bal.)	2.00
Mrs. Duggan,	26.25
Mrs. Havey,	8.00
Thomas Clancey (Taunton Hospital),	169.46
Mrs. Frank Hayward (T. L. Hospital),	127.67
Eugene Conlon (T. L. Hospital),	24.14
Total Cost,	<hr/> \$1,508.36

Received from State for J. Metcalf,	\$2.00	
“ Easton for G. N. Blanchard,	117.50	
“ sons of Mrs. Fr’k Hayward,	127.67	
Due from Plympton (N. Pratt),	131.00	
“ Boston, Mrs. Havey,	8.00	
“ State, M. Lynch,	2.07	
	<hr/>	
Received and due,	\$388.24	
Total expense of poor out of house,		\$1,120.12

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	} <i>Overseers of</i>	
HORACE W. HOWARD,		} <i>the Poor.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,		

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,	\$800.00
John D. Long, counsel,	\$100.00
C. W. Copeland, gravel,	65.00
Geo. Hopkins, “	40.40
Elihu Leonard, “	22.24
Hosea Kingman, counsel,	30.00
B. B. Howard,	15.00
W. R. Keith, witness,	6.80
C. P. Howard, rent of town hall,	75.00
Daniel Perkins, rent of office,	18.00
C. A. Hack & Son, printing reports,	45.60
W. L. Puffer, printing,	17.60
Enterprise Co., “	4.65
E. C. Linfield, “	2.00
Boston Herald, “	2.00
Thomas Groom & Co., book,	1.50
Little, Brown & Co., books,	5.50
Lucius Hayward, gravel,	1.62
J. E. Ryder, gravel,	11.75
Geo. Tyler, repairs scraper and road tools,	51.64
City of Brockton, stone monument,	3.00
S. G. Copeland, fighting fires,	5.00
Geo. Wilbur, repairs office,	5.90
Amount carried forward,	\$530.20

Amount brought forward,	\$530.20
Geo. Hunt, returning births,	3.25
F. S. Howard, returning deaths,	5.25
C. L. McCann, “	.75
James McAnagh, burying horse,	2.00
L. A. Flagg, “	4.50
Edwin Wilds, “	.75
G. R. Drake, oil, etc.	2.03
O. C. R. R., freight,	3.58
E. B. Wilbur, wood for office,	2.50
Davis Copeland, gravel,	8.25
W. T. Butler, repairing ballot box,	2.00
W. H. Tobey, returning deaths,	.50
L. E. Hayward, building fence,	1.00
F. W. Howard, care of cemetery,	3.00
C. E. Brown, mowing monument grounds and cemetery,	8.00
C. T. Williams, cash expense and use of team,	7.90
C. E. Tisdale, postage, paper, etc.,	1.05
J. A. Shores, cash expense and use of team,	64.61
H. W. Howard, “ “ “	49.58
E. B. Wilbur, “ “ “	19.83
	<hr/>
	\$720.53

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Appropriation for 1891,	\$3,500.00
“ for repairs and supplies,	600.00
State school fund,	167.64
	<hr/>
	\$4,267.64
There has been drawn from the treas- ury for the support of schools,	\$3,636.74
For repairs,	430.97
For supplies,	150.00
	<hr/>
	4,217.71
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$49.93

NEW ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,		\$5,000.00
Received of contractor for wall,		12.00
		<hr/>
		\$5,012.00
Paid W. P. Hutchinson as per contract,	\$3,573.00	
W. P. Hutchinson for extra work,	14.60	
L. R. Churchill, steam heating and plumbing,	760.00	
Williams Mfg. Co., windmill,	212.00	
J. M. Hays, digging well,	45.50	
J. M. Whiting, pointing cellar,	20.00	
E. S. Leonard, painting,	43.12	
Waldo Bros., drain pipe,	17.00	
O. C. R. R., freight,	2.21	
Peter Keenan, labor,	12.00	
Geo. Hopkins, grading, etc.,	19.50	
H. W. Howard, “	9.00	
A. L. Alger, “	9.00	
E. B. Wilbur, grading and team work,	27.25	
C. P. Howard, lumber,	4.74	
John Dowcet, stone work,	10.00	
John Luddy, labor,	4.50	
S. L. Ryder, architect,	35.00	
	<hr/>	\$4,818.42
Balance,		<hr/>
		\$193.58

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$3,500.00
“ for Osier street,	300.00
“ for Holmes and Millet streets,	300.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,100.00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved by the road commissioners,	4,082.80

STATE AID.

Geo. N. Blanchard,	\$108.00
William T. Britton,	72.00
Charles E. Churchill,	72.00
William Crockett,	48.00
Lucius Dunbar,	72.00
Patrick Dorgan,	60.00
James P. Gallagher,	70.00
William H. Jennings,	72.00
James H. Leonard,	72.00
Charles E. Miller,	48.00
Charles T. Morse,	72.00
John A. Millet,	60.00
Andrew W. Perkins,	60.00
William B. Smith,	60.00
Horace N. Weld,	72.00
Mary E. Alger,	48.00
Mary E. Howard,	48.00
Elizabeth O. Packard,	48.00
Mary J. Reeves,	48.00
Eliza F. Richardson,	48.00
Clarisa K. Howland,	24.00
Henry Hiatt,	48.00
Thomas H. Cook,	12.00
L. E. Hayward,	36.00
Michael Logue,	9.00
Hannah E. Stanley,	12.00
William E. Cole,	32.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,441.00

MILITARY AID.

Isaac H. Bates,	\$48.00
Thomas Mason,	96.00
George B. Randall,	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$184.00

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$900.00
Lucius Gurney, auditor,	\$2.50
George M. Pratt, auditor,	2.50
Charles E. Tisdale, treasurer,	200.00
Charles E. Tisdale, election officer,	2.25
George C. Howard, moderator,	5 00
Charles R. Packard, town clerk,	73.62
M. K. Crosby, superintendent of schools,	125.00
M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	10.00
M. K. Crosby, care of supplies,	15.00
Benjamin Perkins, school committee,	6.00
J. A. Forbes, registrar,	5.50
Lucius Dunbar, registrar,	7.25
Edwin H. Keith, registrar,	11.62
D. W. Gardner, constable,	123.74
Ellis R. Holbrook, “	7.09
W. W. Steadman, “	18.00
Davis Copeland, election officer,	2.40
C. H. Egan, “ “	2.40
P. K. Bacon, “ “	1.25
G. R. Drake (2 years),	4.50
W. H. Bosworth, school committee,	1.75
C. T. Williams, selectman, assessor, etc.,	32.50
J. A. Shores, selectman, assessor, overseer, building committee, etc.,	243.55
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$903.42

Amount brought forward,	\$903.42
H. W. Howard, selectman, assessor, overseer and building committee,	190.80
E. B. Wilbur, selectman, assessor, overseer and building committee,	131.30
	<hr/>
	\$1,225.52
Appropriations for memorial service,	\$100.00
Paid C. R. Packard, Commander of Post,	100.00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the treasury, February 1, 1891,	\$3,434.63
Balance of corporation tax,	107.81
Borrowed of Frank Dunbar,	2,000.00
Received from city of Boston,	125.25
" " town of Plympton,	155.75
Borrowed of Frank Dunbar,	2,000.00
Received from police court of Brockton,	188.00
" for pedlers' license,	6.00
" tax bills for 1891,	16,190.38
Borrowed from Brockton Savings Bank,	5,000.00
Corporation tax,	674.19
National Bank tax,	527.88
State Aid Chapter 301,	1,375.00
Military Aid Chapter 279,	126.00
Income of school fund,	167.64
Dog fund,	346.70
Town of Easton,	117.50
From John P. Hayward,	127.67
	<hr/>
	\$32,670.40

EXPENDITURES.

Six months' interest on loan,	\$40.00
Six per cent. discount on taxes paid on or before October 15,	859.20
Frank Dunbar, note and interest,	2,055.00
Frank Dunbar, note and interest,	2,050.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$5,004.20

Amount brought forward,	\$5,004.20
Brockton Savings Bank, note and interest,	2,040.00
County tax,	1,199.26
State tax,	750.00
Town officers,	1,225.52
Schools,	3,636.74
School repairs,	430.96
School supplies,	150.00
Memorial,	100.00
Lectures,	100.00
Library,	373.69
Poor out of house,	1,508.36
Highways and sidewalks,	4,082.80
Town farm,	432.74
New almshouse,	4,806.42
Incidentals,	720.53
Abatement,	90.98
State Aid,	1,441.00
Military Aid,	184.00
Cash and uncollected taxes February 1, 1892,	4,393.19
	<hr/>
	\$32,670.40

Condition of the Treasury, February 1, 1892.

Cash on hand,	\$3,824.40
Uncollected taxes,	568.79
	<hr/>
	\$4,393.19

Outstanding note against the town.

Borrowed from Brockton Savings Bank, \$5,000, payable November 1, 1892.

In obedience to the instructions of the town the undersigned have examined the accounts of all town officers for the year ending January 31, 1892. We find all orders drawn by the Selectmen properly vouched by receipted bill.

GEORGE M. PRATT, }
LUCIUS GURNEY, } *Auditors.*

NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting :

Albert L. Alger,	Elihu Leonard,
Pardon K. Bacon,	John A. Millet,
Frank Copeland,	Herbert A. Millet,
Davis Copeland,	Seba H. Marshall,
Curtis Eddy,	Charles R. Packard,
Charles H. Egan,	Japhet Packard,
Linus E. Hayward,	Myron Packard,
Horace W. Howard,	Ira Pratt,
Francis E. Howard,	William F. Ryder,
George C. Howard,	Almon Rounds,
Julius Hayward,	Chester A. Thayer,
Jonas Hartwell,	Charles T. Williams,
Warren C. Kinney,	Charles Atwell,
George H. Knapp,	F. J. Hambley,
Hiram E. Weston,	Arthur C. Peckham,
S. Ellis Ryder,	Charles E. Churchill.
Joseph Vosmus,	

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1891.

George S. Drake,	Joseph A. Shores,
Frank L. Howard,	Abial Washburn.
Molbry A. Ripley,	

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE

For support of poor,	\$1,500.00
support of schools,	3,750.00
school repairs and supplies,	475.00
highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
public lectures,	100.00
paying town debt,	1,000.00
interest on town debt,	250.00
memorial service,	100.00

The next annual town meeting will be held on Monday,
the seventh day of March, 1892.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	}	<i>Selectmen,</i>
HORACE W. HOWARD,		<i>Assessors and</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,		<i>Overseers of the Poor.</i>

REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

The Road Commissioners have paid or approved bills to the following named persons for work on the roads and side-walks :

Timothy Luddy,	\$75.98
Charles H. Egan,	14.85
Prescott Snell,	29.70
Bradford Copeland,	68.25
Nathan W. Bradford,	38.90
S. D. Simpson & Son for snow plows,	50.00
Charles Atwell,	6.50
John H. Adams,	3.35
Clinton P. Howard,	7.86
Erland Thayer,	29.38
John Norman,	2.50
F. E. Howard,	2.62
George Burke,	5.25
Davis Copeland,	81.98
Charles Nilson,	13.95
William H. Washburn,	3.00
Rufus C. Bennett,	55.80
Charles H. Fuller,	229.40
William Pemphraise,	8.85
Pardon K. Bacon,	54.29
Charles E. Dunbar,	2.62
Joseph C. Howard,	110.85
Samuel G. Copeland,	83.00
John Luddy,	146.63

Amount carried forward,

\$1,125.51

Amount brought forward,	\$1,125.51
George W. Howard,	94.00
Loring A. Flagg,	38.00
Michael Egan,	27.00
Linus E. Hayward,	17.49
E. Bradford Wilbur,	365.40
Stilman Alger,	19.20
Edgar Billings,	7.65
Edward Tisdale,	32.40
L. E. & E. Copeland,	54.00
Nathan F. Dunbar,	36.00
Horace Bartlett,	162.30
Cyrus Alger estate,	96.25
William Gorman,	92.40
P. O. Connor,	65.55
William F. Ryder,	516.50
Albert L. Alger,	90.25
Waldo Brothers,	28.35
Owen King,	6.00
Charles Howard,	9.75
John Silva,	11.90
Warren C. Kinney,	23.25
Henry C. Kinney,	18.45
P. Norman,	1.20
James Cunningham,	63.53
Frank Signal,	3.00
John Cashman,	9.00
Michael King,	13.05
William Cagney,	13.50
John Collins,	21.75
George Hopkins,	327.85
Terrence Keenan,	30.23
Warren R. Keith,	24.83
Herbert A. Millet,	1.50
Philip Kent,	93.72
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$3,540.76

Amount brought forward,	\$3,540.76
John Mahoney,	9.00
John Docsett,	13.75
Peter Keenan,	115.65
Timothy Carroll,	10.05
Perez Field,	2.25
Felix McGinn,	36.75
Michael Roach,	12.00
Edward H. Lothrop,	36.90
Elihu Leonard,	19.05
James McAnagh, Jr.,	7.80
J. E. Ryder,	7.00
William H. Howard,	4.70
Thomas Hennessey,	6.00
James McAnagh,	93.75
William Quinlin,	18.45
Michael Morrisson,	15.00
Terrence Duggan,	10.50
Emel Carlson,	6.00
George Sites,	62.03
Charles E. Brown,	42.75
1890 bills unpaid,	12.66
Total,	<hr/> \$4,082.80

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Appropriation for highways,	\$3,500.00
Amount expended,	3,482.80
Balance unexpended Feb. 1st, 1892,	<hr/> \$17.20
Appropriation for Osier street,	\$300.00
Amount expended,	300.00
Appropriation for Holmes and Millet streets,	\$300.00
Amount expended,	300.00

The money appropriated for the roads the past year has been expended in a somewhat different manner than that of previous years. In the spring the commissioners found that a more economical method must be adopted in the repairing of the roads than that of carting gravel long distances and applying heavy coats of gravel on roads that were already too high and had in years past been abundantly graveled. Therefore quite a large proportion of the money has been used in reshaping a number of the roads in the different parts of the town where repairs seemed to be most needed, bringing back into the center of the road the good material that had worked from the centre to the shoulders of the roads and working the poorer material into the gutters making the roads wider and safer, and in some places shaping sidewalks at very little expense, making some places safe for public travel that have in the past been dangerous.

The appropriation for Osier street has been expended on said street, in reshaping a portion and graveling the entire length, making an improvement which we think will prove satisfactory to the town and will require but little repairing for several years.

Holmes and Millet streets have been built as laid out by the Road Commissioners, expending the appropriation made for that purpose, completing the streets in a manner to meet the requirements of the town.

Believing it poor judgment to build sidewalks and allow them to be blocked up with snow at the season when most needed, the commissioners have had six snow plows made and placed for use in the different parts of the town at a cost of fifty dollars, which has been paid out of the appropriation for highways.

We recommend the town to appropriate the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars for the repairs of roads and sidewalks for the ensuing year.

GUIDE BOARDS.

We recommend that guide boards be maintained at the following named places :

Edmund Geary's,	Waldo Howard's,
North Center School House,	West of Almshouse,
Charles W. Copeland's,	Joseph Alger's,
Addison Brook's,	Sylvanus Packard's,
Fred J. Hambley's,	Barnabus Dunbar's,
J. Q. Hartwell's,	James Alger's Furnace,
Stillman W. Hersey's,	Edward P. Spence's,
Dwelley Forbes',	Charles T. Morse's,
Benjamin Howard's,	Charles Howard's,
George Wilbur's,	Pine Hill Cemetery,
George H. Holmes',	Joseph E. Ryder's,
George R. Drake's,	M. K. Crosby's,
Edward H. Lothrop's,	Justin W. Richard's,
Rufus C. Bennett's,	Joshua T. Ryder's.

We recommend that street boards be erected at the head of all streets in town.

ERLAND THAYER,	} <i>Road Commissioners.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	
WILLIAM F. RYDER,	

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

*Marriages Recorded in West Bridgewater
during the year 1891.*

- Jan. 4. Charles E. Miller, Jr., and Laura E. Blake, both
West Bridgewater.
- March 7. Joseph C. Millet of West Bridgewater and Mary
J. Langille of Brockton.
- April 4. William P. Cleveland of Avon and Effie M. Had-
ley of West Bridgewater.
- April 29. Myron A. Snell of West Bridgewater and Laura
J. Collier of Brockton.
- June 15. John B. Lawrence of Abington and Hannah C.
Higgins of West Bridgewater.
- June 18. Cornelius Murray of East Bridgewater and Mary
Jane Clifford of West Bridgewater.
- June 30. Henry W. Sullivan of West Bridgewater and
Margaret L. Thornell of Brockton.
- July 3. John Burke and May Pittsley, both of West
Bridgewater.
- Sept. 9. David Cashion of West Bridgewater and Catherine
Condon of Bridgewater.
- Sept. 18. William Achorn of Boston and Annie Foley of
West Bridgewater.
- Oct. 7. Gilbert O. King of Bridgewater and Annie
Leonard of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 11. Everett T. Hayward of Bridgewater and Flora
F. Keene of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 25. Almon E. Wetherell of Brockton and Winifred
Hiatt of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 26. George W. Parry and Susan M. Middleton, both
of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 26. Henry W. Parry and Catherine McLean, both of
West Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1891.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1889.			
February 6	Percy Wendel Elliott.	Male.	Charles W. and Emma B. (Lowell) Elliott.
April 10	George Francis Tormey.	"	Patrick F. and Elizabeth (Heaphy) Tormey.
1890.			
April 2	Milton Luther Perkins.	Male.	John R. and Lulie F. (Drake) Perkins.
June 30	Ellen Gertrude Tormey.	Female.	Patrick F. and Elizabeth (Heaphy) Tormey.
July 22	Carrie Louise Hayward.	"	G. E. and S. Alice (Holmes) Hayward.
December 29	Mary Andrada	"	Manuel J. and Isabel (Amila) Andrada.
1891.			
February 3	Bertha Annie Cobbett.	Female.	Anson E. and Mabel A. (Graham) Cobbett.
" 5	Laura C. Penpraise.	"	William and Catherine (Shaw) Penpraise.
" 17	Warren Clinton Kinney.	Male.	Warren C. and Harriet (Copeland) Kinney.
March 22	Walter Channing Dunbar	"	Channing F. and Jennie (Harvey) Dunbar.
April 1	Dorothea Helen Baker.	Female.	Frederick H. and May B. (Dunbar) Baker.
" 20	Ellen A. Winberg.	"	August and Sophie (Lindstrom) Winberg.
May 13	Una M Elliott.	"	Charles W. and Emma B. (Lowell) Elliott.
" 18	Mary Jane Sullivan.	"	Philip and Mary (Leary) Sullivan.
" 21	Elmira May White	"	Herbert L. and Frances A. (Mansfield) White.
" 24	Caroline Kennedy Spence.	"	Edward P. and Matilda A. (Kennedy) Spence.
" 24	Margaret Etta McGarry.	"	John and Mary Ann (Connors) McGarry.
" 16	Annie M. Cashin	"	John and Annie (O'Neil) Cashin.
June 27	Margaret May Cronin.	"	Patrick and Margaret (Coughlin) Cronin.
" 28	Walter Edward Tormey.	Male.	Patrick F. and Elizabeth (Heaphy) Tormey.
July 6	Mary O'Leary.	Female.	Lawrence and Margaret (Deneher) O'Leary.
" 9	Lewis Edward Dunbar.	Male.	Nathan F. and Harriet L. (Packard) Dunbar.
" 25	William Gormley	"	Hugh and Susan Gormley.

BIRTHS—(Continued.)

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAME OF PARENTS.
August 9	Ethel Frances Hayward.	Female.....	Julius L. and Ida (Aldrich) Hayward.
" 26	Charles Victor Everett.....	Male.....	James M. Everett and Marietta Brooks.
Sept'ber 29	Harry Warren Crosby.....	"	George W. and Kate (Murray) Crosby.
October 2	Mary Evelyn Wilds.....	Female.....	George W. and Mary E. (Lang) Wilds.
" 17	Herbert Josiah Pratt.....	Male.....	Edwin L. and Mary H. (Pope) Pratt.
" 23	Mary Mildred Hennessey.....	Female.....	James and Maggie (Scanlan) Hennessey.
December 9	Lawrence Fuller Keith.....	Male.....	Edward H. and Victorine S. (Dow) Keith.
" 13	Chester Joseph Millet.....	"	Joseph C. and Mary J. (Langille) Millet.
" 29	Henrietta H. Ripley.....	Female.....	Lester P. and Maggie J. (Hunter) Ripley.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1891.

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DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAMES OF PARENTS.
Jan 3	Edward Capen.	68	11	5	Erysipelas.	Stoughton	Edward and Ruth (Galbert) Capen.
" 24	Peter E. Willard.	62	7	23	Pulmonary Congestion.	Sudden, Vt.	Peter Willard (mother's name unknown).
Feb. 5	Willie Dean.	2	0	8	Epileptiform Convulsions.	E. Bridgewater.	Wm. F. Elliott and Alice M. Hammond.
" 14	Laura N. Thayer.	80	2	30	Valvula Pulm'y Congestion.	Sidney, Me.	Paul and Betsy (Thayer) Bailey.
" 22	Henry W. Howland.	64	10	24	Ulceration of Bladder.	W. Barnstable.	Jason and Anna F. (Jones) Howland.
Mar. 8	Ruby W. Shaw.	87	5	4	Old Age.	Rochester.	Freeman and Abigail Shaw.
" 22	Martha M. Williams.	54	2	3	Apoplexy.	Foxboro.	Lemuel and Susan (Littlefield) Capen.
" 28	Drusilla A. Winship.	75			Bright's Disease.	Leeds, Me	Alson and Hulda C. (Richmond) Lothrop.
Apr 18	Mary Brown.	31			Phthisis.	Ireland.	Unknown.
May 20	Selina Belmore.		6		Bone Disease.	W. Bridgewater,	Octave and Elsie (Cadcau) Belmore.
June 1	Jessie Rogers.	53			Chronic Hepatitis.	England.	William H. and Elizabeth (Tyner) Crisp.
July 20	Jonas G. Hartwell.	58	3		Cancer of Bowels.	W. Bridgewater.	Jonas and Sally (Howard) Hartwell.
" 25	Mary A. Johnson.	61	9	18	Disease of Heart.	"	Charles E. and Mary (Chipman) Dunbar.
Aug. 5	John L. Hayward.	63	8	22	Consumption.	"	Pliny and Polly (Kingman) Hayward.
" 22	Ellen A. Winberg.		4	2	Cholera Infantum	"	August and Sophie (Lindstrom) Winberg.
Sep. 12	Elizabeth H. Fobes.	81	5	10	Heart Disease	"	Edwin and Sarah (Cole) Howard.
" 21	William Burk.	80	7	10	Catarrh of Bladder.	Ireland.	Unknown.
" 25	Margaret Etta McGarry.		4	1	Cholera Infantum.	W. Bridgewater	John and Mary A. (Conners) McGarry.
Oct. 9	Nellie Dunbar.	3	0	20	"	"	Channing F. and Jennie (Harvey) Dunbar.
" 11	Reinette Magin.	12	8	11	Meningitis.	Chicago, Ill.	F. J. and Mary M. (Dandy) Magin.
" 21	Charles E. Williams.	56	7		Typhoid Pneumonia.	Easton.	Greenfield and Elizabeth (Snow) Williams.
" 25	Margaret O'Leary.	84			Old Age.	Ireland.	Richard and Margaret (Fox) Fraher.
Nov 14	Ward Alger.	86	9	20	Gangrene of Foot.	W. Bridgewater.	Willis and Susanna (Capen) Alger.
" 15	Annie M. Cashin.		4	29	Whooping Cough.	"	John and Ann (O'Neil) Cashin.
" 21	Jonathan Fulton.	76	3	11	Hepatitis.	Hillsboro', N. H	Jonathan and Mary (Wallace) Fulton.
" 24	Donald Grant.	75	3	5	"	Nova Scotia.	James and Mary (Scott) Grant.
" 29	Henry Conlon.	34	11	20	Consumption.	W. Bridgewater	Owen and Jane (Murphy) Conlon.
Dec. 5	Percy W. Elliott.	2	10		Diphtheria.	"	Charles W. and Emma B. (Lowell) Elliott.
" 10	Fred. E. Elliott.	4	3	5	"	"	Charles W. and Emma B. (Lowell) Elliott.
" 16	Alice Blanche Jennings.	23	9	1	Phthisis, Pul	Brockton.	Wm. H. and Harriet M. (Loner) Jennings.
" 19	Patrick O'Connor.	67			" Tub.	W. Bridgewater.	Patrick and Bridget (Donahue) O'Connor.
" 19	Carrie A. Smith.	18	9	10	Diphtheria.	Ireland.	Alvin P. and Susan C. (Lowell) Smith.
" 21	Una M. Elliott.		7	8	"	Norton.	Charles W. and Emma B. (Lowell) Elliott.
" 28	Susan A. Simmons.	76	8	17	"La Grippe."	W. Bridgewater.	Randall and Hannah (Snell) Hathaway.
						Dighton.	

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth, ss. :

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater, in
the County of Plymouth, Greeting :*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the seventh day of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz. :

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question: "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the Selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will raise one hundred dollars for public lectures.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 9. To see if the town will authorize the School Committee to elect a superintendent of schools.

ART. 10. To see if the town will accept the provisions of Chapter 431 of the acts of 1888, relating to the employment of a superintendent of schools, and appropriate money therefor.

ART. 11. To see if the town will vote to exempt from taxation for a period of five years the house and lot owned by the Cochesett Hook and Ladder Company. (By request.)

ART. 12. To see what action if any the town will take in relation to providing means, in case of fire, of protecting the property of the citizens of the town. (By request.)

ART. 13. To see if the town will authorize the Town School Committee to hire a piano for the use of the town scholars in the Howard Institute, and appropriate the sum of fifty dollars for the same. (By request.)

ART. 14. To see if the town will vote to change the financial year so that our accounts shall close Dec. 31, instead of Jan. 31.

ART. 15. To transact any business that may legally come before the meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant, according to the vote of said town, seven days at least before the time appointed for said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the clerk of said town, at or before the time appointed for the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands, at said West Bridgewater, this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,
HORACE W. HOWARD,
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,

Selectmen of West Bridgewater.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

During the year 1891 there has been added to the library 142 volumes, making the whole number now on the shelves 3,718.

The books loaned have been distributed among the several classes as follows, viz. :

Agriculture,	6
Art,	3
Biography,	213
Fiction,	2,354
General Literature,	188
History,	136
Humorous Works,	63
Juvenile Works,	912
Magazines,	935
Poetry,	122
Works of Reference,	17
Religion and Theology,	1
Science,	136
Travels,	108
Total,	<hr/> 5,194

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

From town treasurer,	\$373.69
finer, sales of catalogues and cards,	18.70
Mrs. J. O. Alger (for books),	.75
Miss E. Kingman (for book),	3.62
balance to new account,	1.36
	<hr/> \$398.12

Expenditures.

Estes & Lauriat,	\$106.24
Librarian's salary,	104.36
Magazines,	41.20
W. B. Clarke & Co.,	77.68
Balch Brothers,	35.00
Insurance on books,	13.50
Librarian's expense account,	6.96
Postage, express and stationery,	3.03
"Book Buyer,"	1.00
C. P. Howard (wood),	2.00
Book on Ferns,	2.10
Freight on book-case,	3.05
Seth Bryant (book),	1.00
Miss Kingman (book),	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$398.12

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees,

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1891-92 the following were members of the committee :

G. C. HOWARD and W. H. BOSWORTH for three years.
 Mrs. A. S. LELACHEUR and B. PERKINS for two years.
 J. A. SHORES and Mrs. M. K. CROSBY for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows :

J. A. SHORES, *Chairman*.
 M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.
 B. PERKINS and G. C. HOWARD, *Committee on Repairs*.
 B. PERKINS and G. C. HOWARD, *Truant Officers*.

The schools were assigned as follows :

North and North Center to Mr. Perkins.
 Cochesett to Mr. Howard.
 Centre to Mrs. LeLacheur.
 South to Mr. Shores.
 East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.
 Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

To J. A. Shores, A. S. LeLacheur and M. K. Crosby was assigned the examination of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT.

Paid Miss A. M. Hayward,	14 weeks,	\$126.00
" Miss R. L. MacDonald,	19 "	171.00
" Miss G. A. Stone,	28 "	280.00
" Miss E. E. Wilson,	6 "	54.00
" Miss L. Allen,	15 "	150.00
" Miss F. A. Dunn,	9 "	90.00
" Miss S. G. Howard,	8 "	80.00
" Miss I. S. Wood,	25 "	250.00
" Miss F. H. Burgess,	9 "	76.50
" Miss W. A. Holmes,	32 "	320.00
" Miss L. V. Wesel,	32 "	320.00
" Miss M. M. Ballou,	23 "	230.00
" Miss M. Alden,	11 "	99.00
" Miss M. A. Dewyre,	34 "	340.00
" Miss M. C. Keith,	34 "	318.00
" Mrs. L. M. Toothaker,	34 "	340.00
" Mr. G. C. Howard,	4 days,	8.00
		<hr/>
		\$3,252.50

JANITOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$12.00
Cochesett,	22.00
Centre,	24.00
South,	12.00
East,	12.00
Matfield,	12.00
North,	12.00
North Centre,	12.00
<hr/>	
\$118.00	

FUEL DEPARTMENT.

Paid E. T. Snell, $8\frac{1}{2}$ cords hard wood,	\$42.50
“ “ $2\frac{1}{2}$ cords pine wood,	10.00
Owen King, labor on wood,	22.00
L. E. & E. Copeland, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cords pine wood and labor,	14.75
P. K. Bacon, 7 cords hard wood,	35.00
“ “ 2 cords pine wood,	8.00
C. P. Howard, 3 cords oak wood,	15.00
C. T. Williams, 1 cord pine wood,	4.00
W. Penpraise, labor on wood,	10.00
W. H. Wilson, chopping and storing $3\frac{1}{2}$ cords,	10.00
J. E. Ryder, 1 cord oak, 1 cord pine,	9.00
L. A. Flagg, 1 cord hard, 1 cord pine and labor,	12.50
C. Keene, labor on wood,	12.90
M. K. Crosby, 1 cord pine wood,	4.00
H. Kinney, labor on wood,	.75
B. Perkins, labor on wood,	16.00
	<hr/>
	\$226.40

SCHOOL CHARTS.

Paid D. C. Heath & Co., Miss Fuller's charts,	\$8.34
F. M. Ambrose, Edwards' charts,	31.50
	<hr/>
	\$39.84

Expenditures.

Teachers' wages,	\$3,252.50
Fuel,	226.40
Janitors,	118.00
School charts,	39.84
	<hr/>
	\$3,636.74

Receipts.

Town grant,	\$3,500.00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	167.64
	<hr/>
	\$3,667.64

DEPARTMENT OF REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid Barstow Stove Co., jacketed stove,	\$50.00
C. P. Hilstrum, labor and stock at Cochesett,	26.85
“ “ labor and 4 stove screens,	23.00
“ “ labor and stock, cleaning stoves,	37.15
O. R. Leonard, whitewashing at Cochesett,	8.00
F. W. Howard, labor and stock at Cochesett,	13.81
B. H. Waugh, labor and stock at Jerusalem,	50.96
G. Wilbur, labor and stock at Centre,	61.61
A. Copeland, labor and stock at Jerusalem,	7.92
“ labor and stock at Cochesett,	50.13
“ labor and stock at East,	29.15
Alger's Express,	4.85
Blanks for labor certificates,	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$364.43

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	\$7.09
Cochesett,	8.83
South,	10.20
Centre,	11.43
East,	7.25
Matfield,	11.40
North,	5.75
North Centre,	4.59
	<hr/>
	66.54
Whole amount of repairs,	430.97
Town grant,	450.00
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$19.03

The school census for May 1, 1891, gave 281 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these

234 were in the common schools, 6 in the Howard school, 4 taught at home, 13 (all of whom were above 13 years and 8 above 14 years) at work, 3 incompetent, 1 sick, 16 young and not yet in school, and 4 out for other reasons.

At the beginning of the year the provision for habitual truancy was the same as for several previous years, but early in November notice was received from the County Commissioners that the

Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth Union Truant School was open and ready to receive and provide for such boys as may be sentenced for truancy from the several towns in the county."

We have asked for an appropriation for schools that we think will be sufficient to give 36 weeks, or two additional weeks of school in the year. This will place our school year, in length, just above the average for all the towns in the state, which was, in 1889-90, 8 months and 17 days (20 days making a school month).

The Calendar here presented has been arranged for 36 weeks.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 1892-93.

SPRING TERM, Feb. 15 to June 10. 16 weeks.

Recess. Fast Day week.

FALL TERM, Sept. 6 to Dec. 23. 16 weeks.

Recess, Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

WINTER TERM, Jan. 9 to Mar. 24, 1893. 11 weeks.

Recess, 2 weeks.

SPRING, 1893, April 10 to June 16. 10 weeks.

Four weeks of the Winter term (1892-93) would be required to complete the school year of 36 weeks, within the financial year (as at present arranged), and the remaining 7 weeks of that term would be counted in the next year.

By this arrangement, which would bring our town into conformity with all of the adjoining towns, there would be

three terms a year, ending before Dec. 31, and vacations about Fast time and at Christmas, of two weeks each, with a long one in summer. Changes to meet the special needs of the different schools could be readily made.

A jacketed wood heater has been in use in the grammar school-room at Cochesett since September, and has given good satisfaction. In a recent visit the State Deputy Inspector pronounced the air in the room "very good."

Partial jackets or screens have been placed near the stoves of the South, East, North and Centre Primary schools, to protect the pupils sitting nearest the fires. The remaining schools, though less inconvenienced from this cause, should be made more comfortable in a similar way.

In order to furnish Phonic and Language Charts to all of our schools that have pupils of the primary grade, advantage has been taken of one of the provisions for the distribution and use of the Massachusetts school fund.

"Said committee may, if they see fit, appropriate therefrom any sum, not exceeding twenty-five per cent. of the same, to the purchase of books of reference, maps, and apparatus for the use of said schools."

Owing to changes in investments, etc., the state fund has made smaller returns this year than usual, but as an addition of about \$700,000 has been made to it during the year, we may look for a share of the increase in the future.

By a law enacted during the session of 1891, the distribution of this fund will be more favorable to all of the towns with small valuation that comply with certain conditions. A part of said fund will be divided between the towns according to the ratio that their public school tax bears to their annual tax rate.

The appropriations recommended for this year are these :

For the support of schools,	\$3,750.00
For furnishings and repairs,	300.00
For text-books and supplies,	175.00

Two members of the School Board should be chosen for three years at the annual town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. SHORES,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
M. K. CROSBY,		
A. S. LELACHEUR,		
B. PERKINS,		
W. H. BOSWORTH,		
G. C. HOWARD,		

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Feb. 1, 1892.

SCHOOLS.		Length in weeks.	Scholars enrolled.	Average member-ship.	Average attendance.	Not absent or tardy.	Over fifteen years.	Less than five years.	Wages per month.
SPRING TERM.	South.....	14	30	25.64	21.	0	0	0	\$36
	Centre Grammar.....	14	16	14.38	13.	2	2	0	40
	Centre Primary.....	14	27	25.	22.4	0	0	1	40
	East.....	14	27	27.	24.7	5	3	0	40
	Matfield.....	14	25	22.43	22.	0	2	0	40
	North.....	14	23	21.64	19.	2	0	0	36
	North Centre.....	14	26	20.5	17.5	1	0	0	40
	Cochesett Grammar.....	15	19	16.6	15.2	2	2	0	40
	Cochesett Primary.....	14	34	29.3	25.5	2	0	0	40
	Jerusalem.....	14	29	26.5	22.	4	0	0	40
FALL TERM.	South.....	12	29	28.1	25.1	0	0	0	36
	Centre Grammar.....	12	23	20.	19.	4	0	0	40
	Centre Primary.....	12	23	20.7	18.4	0	0	0	40
	East.....	9	25	19.57	17.67	5	1	0	40
	Matfield.....	12	25	23.	22.	0	0	0	40
	North.....	12	27	24.5	23.24	5	0	0	36
	North Centre.....	12	26	23.7	21.8	1	0	0	40
	Cochesett Grammar.....	9	24	23.5	22.4	1	1	0	40
	Cochesett Primary.....	11	28	26.6	23.	3	0	0	40
	Jerusalem.....	12	32	28.	25.64	4	0	2	40
WINTER TERM.	South.....	7	23	22.	19.63	0	0	0	36
	Centre Grammar.....	5	23	22.5	18.23	5	0	0	40
	Centre Primary.....	5	21	16.8	14.7	1	0	0	40
	East.....	9	22	20.	18.	4	1	0	36
	Matfield.....	8	22	17.	14.76	0	0	0	40
	North.....	8	29	25.75	22.72	1	0	0	40
	North Centre.....	8	24	22.	20.	2	0	0	40
	Cochesett Grammar.....	9	22	21.	17.	1	2	0	40
	Cochesett Primary.....	9	27	23.5	19.	0	0	0	34
	Jerusalem.....	8	28	21.	17.	3	0	0	36

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The changes that have occurred in our schools during the year whose close calls for a summary of the work attempted, have been mostly in the corps of teachers.

Jerusalem, the Cochesett Grammar, the South and East Schools, have all lost the excellent instructors with which they began the year, and the Cochesett school has experienced a succession of changes that have, of necessity, interfered with steady progress in regular work. Miss Dunn is expected to resume her place at the opening of the Spring term, and there now seems no good reason why this school should not enter upon a prosperous year.

The lower school in the same building will welcome Miss Wood's return after her respite of a few weeks in the winter.

The new teachers in the East and South districts have already shown the good quality of their work.

At Jerusalem the diminished and irregular attendance resulting from sickness, was a serious obstacle to Miss Stone's successor in the short time of her service before the close of the year.

The remaining schools have quietly and steadily carried forward their proper work, and those at the Centre give satisfactory evidence that they are recovering from the effects of a long period of frequent change.

Whole number of pupils enrolled for the year,	313
Number that have left town,	18
Number that have moved into town,	39

It is necessary to again remind parents and others in charge of our youth, that the good character of our schools for attendance depends mainly upon their efforts (and often upon their resolute self-denial) to keep their children in school.

For the whole State the per cent. of average attendance, based upon average membership, is over 90, while in 1890-91 we reached only 87 per cent., or a standing of No. 20 in the 27 towns of Plymouth County.

In September 10 pupils were admitted to the Howard High school, and the whole number now in attendance is 24.

The record of attendance from September to February has been $94\frac{2}{10}$ per cent.

The total membership from January, 1891, has been 35, which is a small number for a town with our population.

Any pupil who really desires a better education, and who can meet the reasonable requirements for entrance to the school, will receive a cordial welcome.

Professor Willard says: "It is a pleasant and faithful set of scholars who almost without exception work well and are interested in their work. The teachers are all interested in the school, but would rather spend their time on twice the number than on so few."

Our school buildings are, within and without, in a reasonably good condition, and it is pleasant to testify that most of the pupils cheerfully aid the teachers in taking proper care of the school property.

It is our purpose to make the pupils realize that school life is continuous from term to term, no less than from one week to another. At the beginning of a new term the classes should take up their studies from the closing lessons of the previous term, and this is easily accomplished when the teachers are permanent.

Our method of keeping at the school room a record of the progress of every class in its various studies from term to term, is of great value to the teachers, especially when first assuming charge of a school, and also to the one who superintends.

The Reading and Language departments are now quite well supplied with helps to both pupils and teachers.

Miss Fuller's Phonic Charts (prepared for use in teaching deaf-mutes to articulate) can be made of great service to children *not* deprived of the sense of hearing.

Edward's Language Charts afford pleasant and most profitable work for beginners that are learning to write as well as speak the English language, while pupils more advanced continue the study as grammar with their new text books.

A greater amount and variety of reading matter is furnished our schools than will be found in most country towns.

The value of these educational supplies to a school depends, to a great extent, upon the ability of the teachers to put them to their best use. If a school room is supplied with improved means of instruction, that room is certainly no place for a teacher who *can not* or *does not* use these means for the advancement of her pupils.

This year closes the second triennial term of my connection with our schools as a member of the School Board and Superintendent.

During this time there have been ten different members upon the Board, three of whom have served continuously. It is my privilege to record the unbroken harmony of our official intercourse, as well as my appreciation of the ready sympathy and support that have ever been given to my labors as Superintendent by my fellow members of the Board.

The number of children of legal school age has diminished within the six years, though at present there is a small increase.

The establishment of the Matfield school enabled us to withdraw the pupils of that section from the care of East Bridgewater and to relieve the crowded East school.

One school has taken the place of two in the South district, and this is now attended by all the pupils of that section, but the opportunity is always open for the older pupils to join the classes of the Centre Grammar school, and it is strongly recommended that all who wish to obtain the greatest benefit from the time spent in school should make the change, even though attended by a longer daily walk.

Cases have come to my knowledge of girls in neighboring towns who have walked daily more than three miles and back (with few absences), that they might have the advantages of a high school.

Prominent among the topics discussed by leading educators at the present time are "Industrial Education" and the "Supervision of Public Schools."

The first topic calls for but little consideration in farming towns like ours, where the occupations inevitably give girls and boys a good share of manual training; but the second is one to which I would invite your serious thought.

To the School Committees of the several towns our State entrusts the entire charge of its public schools. They are responsible for the care of school property, the choice and purchase of all supplies, the plans of study, the selection of teachers and direction of their work, for the annual returns required by the laws, and the enforcement of statutes relating to schools.

From year to year new duties are imposed, and hence it is becoming quite difficult in the smaller towns to secure for members of the School Board persons with the requisite qualifications and sufficient leisure to perform these exacting duties.

The cities and larger towns have, one after another, with legal sanction, adopted the wise plan of employing *one* person to attend to those departments of the work that could be better performed by one than by several, such as choosing teachers and superintending their labors, attending to grading the schools, to promotions, and the attendance, etc.

Within a few years the smaller towns have been encouraged by legislative action to unite in the employment of a superintendent whose whole time should be devoted to the interests of their schools.

The first appropriations to aid these unions was made in 1888, and in 1891 the amount granted for this object was \$35,000, or \$1,000 to each district then formed in accordance with the first act.

The result has been that skilled supervision is secured in these districts with but little, if any, additional expense to the towns, and as this policy is strongly favored by the State Board of Education, it is probable that within a few years every town in the State will be induced to share in the advantages of the new system.

The testimony of school officials, from the towns already brought into district supervision, is unmistakable in its approval.

"Better attendance," "unity in the work and methods throughout the town," "better grading," "promotes economy in the use of supplies," "excites a friendly rivalry," "puts new life into pupils and teachers"—are a few of the commendations expressed in reference to the system.

There has been great readiness to adopt this plan in Worcester County. Out of 17 towns voting on the question in 1889, all but one decided for the measure, and many towns unanimously.

"The methods and management in a mixed school should be of the best kind, as the amount of work to be done is very great," writes one of the State agents.

Our town must have been one of the earliest of country places to recognize in practice this principle of uniform supervision, and it has since always held to the improved method; hence, if an opportunity should be offered to form, with some of the neighboring towns, a district for superintendence, our citizens would not be unprepared to receive and decide the question intelligently.

It is with an intimate knowledge of the present condition of our schools and a strong conviction that the proposed change will be for their permanent advancement, that I now recommend to my fellow citizens that they should give our children a longer school year, and permit our schools, as soon as practicable, to be placed under district supervision.

Respectfully submitted,

M. K. CROSBY.

1891-92.

REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR SCHOOL
SUPPLIES.

The town appropriation for school supplies has been expended as follows :

To the Thorp & Adams Manufacturing Company,	
paper, pencils, pens and other supplies,	\$54.14
American Book Co., geographies, readers, spell-	
ing blanks, copy-books and chart,	17.42
J. L. Hammett, maps, charts and erasers,	11.68
W. P. Adams, readers,	3.34
Ginn & Co., readers,	1.25
Wm. Ware & Co., readers,	2.75
Silver, Burdett & Co., readers,	4.75
Leach, Shewell & Sanborn, grammars,	24.50
Thompson & Brown, arithmetics,	5.00
Prang Educational Co., drawing supplies,	18.29
F. M. Ambrose, language chart,	5.00
Postage,	1.88
	<hr/>
	150.00
Inventory of stock on hand January 31, 1891,	19.99
Amount drawn from town treasury,	150.00
	<hr/>
	169.99
Inventory of new stock on hand January 31, 1892,	13.16
Supplies furnished schools,	156.83
	<hr/>
	\$169.99

Inventory of new supplies on hand Jan. 31, 1892.

5 grammars,	\$3.00
3 spellers,	.50
8 $\frac{1}{4}$ dozen copy-books,	5.30
1 dozen exercise books,	.26
1 dozen drawing books,	1.44
$\frac{1}{2}$ dozen spelling blanks,	.17

Miscellaneous.

Pencils, erasers and rules,	2.49
	<hr/>
	\$13.16

The text books kept by the agent after their first use in schools, to be in readiness for transfer to other schools, are not included in the inventory.

The average number of pupils enrolled in the schools is 255; the cost of supplies provided by the town has been \$156.83, or 61.5 cents per scholar.

An increase in the appropriation for supplies is needed to enable the agent to replace books that are badly worn.

Respectfully submitted,

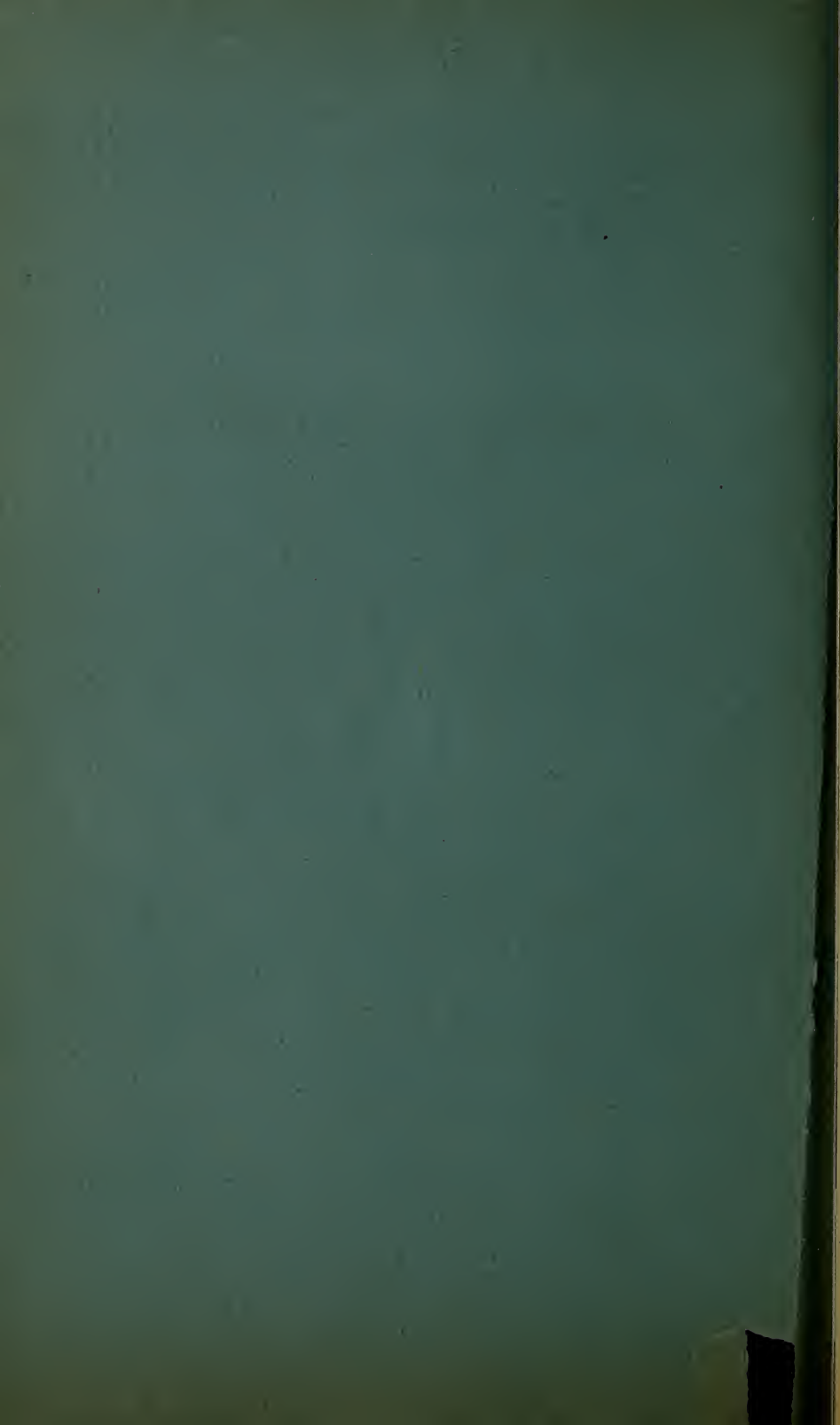
M. K. CROSBY.





ANNUAL REPORTS
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FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1893.

TAUNTON :
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1893.



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1893.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1892.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND ASSESSORS.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

E. BRADFORD WILBUR.

SAMUEL G. COPELAND.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

GEO. C. HOWARD,

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,

WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH,

BENJAMIN PERKINS.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

CHARLES R. PACKARD,

MRS. EMILINE B. COPELAND.

MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN,

MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

HORACE M. WILLARD.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

ERLAND THAYER,

WILLIAM F. RYDER,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

CONSTABLES.

ELLIS R. HOLBROOK,

JOSIAH A. PERKINS,

DANIEL W. GARDNER,

CHARLES H. EGAN,

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

FIELD DRIVERS.

FRANK R. LEBARON,

WILLIAM B. LOTHROP,

WILLIAM T. BRITTON,

D. W. GARDNER.

FENCE VIEWERS.

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

DAVIS COPELAND,

WILLIAM F. RYDER.

MEASURERS OF LUMBER.

LESTER P. RIPLEY,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

DANIEL B. DAVIS.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

PARDON K. BACON,

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

WM. F. RYDER,

HORACE BARTLETT,

HORACE W. HOWARD,

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FOBES.

LUCIUS DUNBAR.

EDWARD H. KEITH.

AUDITORS.

CHARLES E. TISDALE.

H. W. HOWARD.

POUND KEEPER.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town, January 1, 1893, is respectfully submitted :

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION,

As Assessed May 1, 1892

Value of real estate,	\$922,960.00
Value of personal estate,	171.672.00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$1,094,632.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$857.50	
County tax,	1,432.74	
	<hr/>	2,290.24
Town grant,	13,725.00	
Overlay,	565.58	
	<hr/>	14,290.58
Subsequent assessment,		47.64
		<hr/>
Total tax,		16,628.46
Rate of tax, \$14.25 per \$1,000.	Poll tax—Males, \$2.00	

Number of polls,	497
acres of land	9,847
dwelling houses,	409
horses	401
cows,	697
sheep,	26
Number of swine,	64
young stock,	137

APPROPRIATIONS.

For support of schools	\$3,750.00
school supplies and repairs,	475.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks	3,500.00
support of poor.	1,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
memorial service	100.00
interest on town debt,	250.00
paying town debt	2,000.00
School Superintendent.	250.00
furnishing almshouse,	200.00
	<hr/>
	\$13,725.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Value of New Almshouse and wood-house.	\$5,000.00
town farm,	3,500.00
personal property,	1,897.00
ten school-houses,	13,000.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	100.00
road scraper,	100.00

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	} <i>Assessors.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	
SAMUEL G. COPELAND,	

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE, JANUARY 1, 1893.

7 tons English hay,	\$140.00
3½ tons meadow and swale hay,	35.00
1½ tons corn fodder and oats,	22.00
corn,	35.00
2 bushels of beans,	5.00
10 cows,	400.00
1 horse,	115.00
30 fowls,	12.00
60 bushels potatoes,	60.00
4 bushels onions,	3.00
120 pounds pork,	12.00
40 pounds lard,	4.00
3 pounds butter,	.96
1¼ barrel flour,	7.50
groceries,	5.00
2 pork barrels,	1.00
soap and oil,	2.00
hay knife,	1.25
express wagon,	10.00
step ladder,	1.25
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenters' tools,	9.00
hay cutter,	4.00
5 stoves,	15.00
grind stone,	4.00
2 oxen,	135.00
Amount carried forward,	1,042.96

Amount brought forward,	\$1,042.96
household furniture,	148.00
tinware,	5.00
crockery, etc.,	15.00
3 churns,	8.00
woodenware,	15.00
beds and bedding,	87.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
hay wagon,	30.00
covered wagon,	40.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
pung,	8.00
harnesses,	25.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	8.00
robes and blankets,	6.00
mowing machine and rake,	40.00
5 plows, 3 harrows and other tools,	25.00
horse sled,	7.00
manure and ashes,	100.00
coal,	105.00
2 ladders,	3.00
6 bags Fertilizer,	10.80
washing machine,	10.00
wood and lumber,	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,897.76
Inventory, Feb. 1, 1892,	1,545.25
	<hr/>
Gain in Inventory,	\$352.51

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE

Cash on hand,	\$48.97
Cash for milk,	1,015.73
Stock,	185.00
Onions,	14.70
Potatoes,	56.55
Hay,	45.91
Eggs,	9.79
Lumber sold,	4.25
Use of wagon,	2.00
Old chair sold,	1.00
Ox yoke sold,	2.00
Cucumbers,	39.35
Corn,	10.00
Drawn from treasury for J. C. Swan,	2.00
" " " E. R. Hayward, fertilizers,	78.90
" " " J. H. Adams estate,	21.95
" " " L. A. Flagg, for coal,	130.93
" " " Chas. E. Leonard for Pigs,	8.00
" " " Stock	283.30
" " " B. H. Waugh for Labor,	9.47
" " " S. G. Copeland,	
Labor and Meat,	19.47
	<hr/>
	\$1,989.27

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	42.02
meat,	87.86
fish,	12.72
wooden ware,	10.09
grass and garden seed,	16.65
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$169.34

Amount brought forward,	\$169 34
Paid for blacksmithing,	25.55
clothing,	28.26
soap,	10.36
tinware and glassware,	7.33
crockery,	1.48
coal,	133.64
sugar,	16.05
potatoes,	3.60
Use of Stock for 2 years	10.75
shoes,	12.50
repairs,	15.93
tobacco	11.38
salt,	4.70
fertilizer,	80.50
groceries,	93.58
grain,	445.83
farming tools,	7.60
oil,	8.32
stock,	283.30
repairs on barn,	21.19
sundries,	4.04
washing machine	10.00
labor,	248.88
repair harness,	3.17
hardware,	12.46
crackers,	13.96
J. C. Swan, medical attendance,	2.00
warden's salary, 11 months,	302.95
Cash on hand January 1, 1893,	0.62
	<hr/>
	\$1,989.27

COST OF SUPPORTING THE POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from the treasury per almshouse account,	\$554.02
Gain in inventory from February 1, 1892, to January 1, 1893,	352.51
	<hr/>
	\$201.51

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	79	45
Albert Staples,	50	52
Conn Sullivan,	58	52
George Randall,	66	36
Michael Ryan,	44	3
Ansel Alger,	65	23
Mrs. Ann Kane,	68	12

The warden during the year has lodged and fed forty-nine tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Frank Fadden's children,	\$140.00
Fred Leonard,	212.00
Olive B. Shaw and children,	216.83
Mary Sullivan,	66.00
Abbie Fadden,	50.00
George Wild,	10.00
Mrs. Merton Churchill and Children,	159.15
Mrs. Kenney,	55.00
George N. Blanchard,	47.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$955.98

Amount brought forward,	\$955.98
Aid to Chas. T. Hayward's children,	156.00
Mary Allison and family,	10.44
Mrs. Ann Kane,	1.75
Mrs. Heavy,	40.37
Thomas Clancy (Taunton Hospital),	66.39
Mrs. Frank Hayward (T. L. Hospital),	169.46
Eugene Conlon (T. L. Hospital),	127.21
Mrs. Rebecca Maxfield,	120.50
Wm. H. Bismore,	72.00
John A. Sloan,	32.18
Harriet Harvey,	71.55
Total Cost,	<hr/> \$1823.83

Received from Springfield,

for Mrs. Rebecca Maxfield, 120.50

Received from Boston, for Mrs. Heavy 40.37

" " Easton, for Geo. N Blanchard, 47.00

" " Brockton, for John A. Sloan, 32.18

Due from New Bedford for Wm. H. Bismore, 72.00

from John P. Hayward " Mrs. F. Hayward 169.46

Received and due, \$ 481.51 ~~\$312.05~~

Expense of poor out of house, \$ 1342.32 ~~\$1,511.78~~

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	} Overseers of the Poor.
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	
S. G. COPELAND,	

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,	\$800.00
Paid opposing division of town	
Hayward & Howard, engineers,	\$41.05
B. B. Howard, blanks,	5.00
J. C. Keith, coach,	5.00
A. Mudge & Son, printing,	5.50
E. B. Wilbur, cash expenses & time,	37.00
J. A. Shores, cash expenses & time,	37.75
B. W. Harris, counsel,	60.00
W. H. Jennings, time,	2.00
	<hr/>
	\$193.30
Chas. E. Tisdale, postage,	1.50
L. A. Flagg, moving safe,	2.25
G. A. Goodall, printing voting lists,	14.50
C. A. Hack & Son, printing reports,	47.50
C. P. Howard, rent town hall,	75.00
G. R. Drake, sundries,	2.94
Thomas Groom, account books,	11.00
L. G. Lowe & Son, insuring almshouse,	67.50
Daniel Perkins, rent of office,	18.00
Isaac H. Bates, care of monument grounds,	5.00
Geo. M. Pratt, printing tax bills,	10.75
J. S. Sampson, printing school regulations,	18.25
R. D. McKeene, postage and telegraph,	4.43
Enterprise Pub. Co., advertising,	3.60
William E. Fay, printing town warrants,	6.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$481.52

Amount brought forward	\$481.52
F. W. Howard, care of cemetery,	3.00
Chas. E. Leonard, wood for office,	5.00
Howard, Clark & Co., returning deaths,	1.00
F. S. Howard, " "	2.25
Chas. McCann, " "	2.00
E. B. Wilbur, selling school house,	2.00
J. A. Shores, cash expense and use of team	49.49
Chas. R. Packard, printing and postage,	9.76
	<hr/>
	\$556.02

Bills approved by road commissioners,	
L. A. Flagg, repairs to road machine,	\$24.65
Chas. Burrill, gravel,	27.25
J. E. Ryder, gravel,	37.00
Davis Copeland, gravel,	7.75
J. H. Adams, estate,	
repairs to scraper,	3.10
W. R. Dickerson, gravel,	12.15
Pierce & Packard, shovels,	4.37
W. F. Ryder, gravel,	5.00
O. K. Ness, plank,	39.12
G. R. Drake, nails,	1.00
Geo. Hopkins, gravel,	26.50
James O. Alger, cinders and gravel,	41.20
Woldo Brothers, drain pipe,	40.48
	<hr/>
	269.57
	<hr/>
	\$825.59

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Appropriation for schools,	\$3,750.00
" for repairs and supplies,	475.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$4,225.00

Amount brought forward,		\$4,225.00
There has been drawn from the treasury for schools,	\$3,507.52	
For repairs,	268.48	
For supplies,	177.54	
	<hr/>	3,953.54
Balance,		<hr/> \$271.46

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Appropriation,		\$250.00
Paid M. K. Crosby to May 20,	\$50.00	
R. D. McKeene,	145.82	
	<hr/>	195.82
Balance,		<hr/> \$54.18

LIBRARY.

Drawn from treasury for Library,	\$307.89
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MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid C. R. Packard commander of post,	100.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$3,500.00
Drawn from treasury on bill approved by the road commissioners,	3,482.62
	<hr/>
	17.38

NEW ALMSHOUSE.

Appropriation,		\$200.00
Paid N. W. Bradford, painting,		5.52
A. S. Lyon, lumber for wood house,	58.17	
W. J. Cairns, labor " " "	76.86	
	<hr/>	\$136.03
Keeler & Co., furniture,	126.38	
R. H. White, blankets and spreads,	30.65	
Howard, Clark & Co., pillow ticks,	2.00	
J. S. Sargent & Co., hooks and wire,	1.70	
Grey's Furniture M'f'g Co., screens,	5.00	
Isam Mitchel, lumber,	1.15	
L. Richardson & Co., curtains,	28.52	
Ladies Aid Society, puffs,	13.20	
	<hr/>	\$208.60
		<hr/>
		\$350.15

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation		\$900.00
Paid Geo. M. Pratt, auditor,	\$2.50	
Lucius Gurny, auditor,	2.50	
Chas. E. Tisdale, treasurer, 1891,	200.00	
Chas. E. Tisdale, election officer,	3.00	
Geo. C. Howard, moderator,	5.00	
Daniel W. Gardner, constable,	73.37	
M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	10.00	
Chas. H. Egan, election officer,	4.00	
Adelbert A. Goss, election officer,	4.00	
Geo. R. Drake, election officer,	3.60	
Davis Copeland " "	2.70	
	<hr/>	
Amount carried forward	310.67	

Amount brought forward	\$310.67	
Paid Chas. R. Packard, town clerk,	74.67	
Jos. A. Shores, selectman, assessor and overseer,	248.35	
E. Bradford Wilbur, selectman, assessor and overseer,	178.05	
Samuel G. Copeland, selectman, assessor and overseer,	73.00	
Horace W. Howard, selectman, assessor and overseer,	57.25	
Edward H. Keith, registrar,	9.50	
James A. Fobes, “	6.50	
Lucius, Dunbar, “	8.00	
Benjamin Perkins, school committee	7.00	
Josiah A. Perkins, constable,	12.70	
George M. Pratt, treasurer 1892,	200.00	
	<hr/>	1,185.69

STATE AID.

George N. Blanchard,	\$72 00
Mrs. Geo. N. Blanchard,	36 00
William T. Britton,	48 00
Charles E. Churchill,	72 00
William Crockett,	48 00
Lucius Dunbar,	72 00
Patrick Dorgan,	60 00
James P. Gallagher,	72 00
William H. Jennings,	72 00
James H. Leonard,	72 00
Mrs. Leonard,	40 00
Charles E. Miller,	32 00
Charles T. Morse,	72 00
John A. Millet,	60 00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$828 00

Amount brought forward,	\$828.00
Andrew W. Perkins,	70 00
William B. Smith,	5 00
Horace N. Weld,	72 00
Mary E. Alger,	48 00
Mary E. Howard,	48 00
Elizabeth O. Packard,	48 00
Mary J. Reeves,	48 00
Eliza F. Richardson,	48 00
Stella E. Howard,	24 00
Henry Hiatt,	48 00
L. E. Hayward ,	36 00
Mrs. L. E. Hayward,	44 00
Patrick Donahue,	40 00
Thomas Mason,	20 00
William E. Cole,	48 00
Nathaniel Pratt,	70 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,545 00

MILITARY AID.

Thomas Mason,	\$24 00
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TREASURERS ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the treasury, February 1, 1892,	\$4,393 19
Balance of corporation tax,	75 66
Borrowed of Frank Dunbar,	1,500 00
Received from town of Plympton,	131 00
Borrowed of Frank Dunbar,	1,000 00
Received from sale of schoolhouse,	82 00
“ Tax bills for 1892,	16,628 46
Corporation tax,	662 49
National bank tax,	569 84
State Aid Chapter 301,	1438 00
Military Aid Chapter 279,	96 00
Town of Easton,	47 00
From John P. Hayward,	169 46
From State support of paupers,	2 07
“ “ burying a horse,	3 60
“ City of Springfield,	120 50
“ “ “ Boston,	40 37
“ “ “ Brockton,	32 18
	<hr/>
	\$26,991 82

EXPENDITURES.

Six months interest on loan,	\$125 00
Brockton Savings Bank note and interest,	5,125 00
County tax,	1,432 74
	<hr/>
Amount brought forward,	\$6,682.74

Amount carried forward,	\$6,682.74
Frank Dunbar note and interest,	511 25
State tax,	857 50
Frank Dunbar note and interest,	1,025 00
Six per cent. discount on taxes paid before Oct. 15,	859 42
Town officers,	1,235 69
Schools,	3,507 52
School repairs,	268 48
School supplies,	177 54
Memorial,	100 00
Library,	307 89
Poor out of the house,	1,823 83
Highways and Sidewalks,	3,684 94
Town Farm,	554 02
New Almshouse,	350 15
Incidentals,	623 27
Abatements,	67 96
State Aid,	1,545 00
Military Aid,	24 00
Cash and uncollected taxes Jan. 1st., 1893,	2,639 80
R. D. McKeen, Superintendent of Schools,	145 82
	<hr/>
	\$26,991 82

Condition of the Treasury January 1, 1893.

Cash on hand,	\$1814 80
Uncollected taxes,	825 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,639.80

Outstanding note against the town.

Borrowed from Frank Dunbar,	\$1000 00
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In obedience to the instructions of the town the undersigned have examined the accounts of all town officers for the year ending December 31, 1892. We find all orders drawn by the Selectmen properly vouched by receipted bills.

CHARLES E. TISDALE, {
HORACE W. HOWARD, } *Auditors.*

NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

Albert L. Alger,	S. Ellis Ryder,
Pardon K. Bacon,	Joseph Vosmus,
Frank Copeland,	Lucius Dunbar,
Bradford Copeland,	Elihu Leonard,
Curtis Eddy,	John A. Millet,
Charles H. Egan,	Herbert A. Millet,
Linus E. Hayward,	Seba H. Marshall,
Horace W. Howard,	Japhet Packard,
Francis E. Howard,	Myron Packard,
George W. Howard,	William F. Ryder.
George C. Howard,	Almon Rounds,
Julius Hayward,	Charles T. Williams,
Jonas Hartwell,	Charles Atwell,
J. S. Jones,	F. J. Hambley,
Warren C. Kinney,	Arthur C. Peckham,
George H. Knapp,	Charles E. Churchill,
Hiram E. Weston.	

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1892.

Davis Copeland,	Molbry A. Ripley,
Ira A. Pratt,	Frank L. Howard,
Chester Thayer.	

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE.

For support of poor,	\$1,500.00
support of schools,	4,150.00
school repairs and supplies,	475.00
highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00

For town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
public lectures,	100.00
memorial service,	100.00
Superintendent of Schools,	250.00

The next annual town meeting will be held on Monday,
the sixth day of March, 1893.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	}	<i>Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILUBR,		
SAMUEL G. COPELAND,		

REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

The Road Commissioners have paid or approved bills to the following named persons for work on the roads and sidewalks.

George Hopkins,	\$400.20
Charles H. Fuller,	106.65
E. F. Miller,	4.19
Philip Kent,	20.10
John Cashman,	85.55
R. C. Bennett,	22.65
Frank Signal,	83.40
Terence Keenan,	123.00
Frank Westgate,	12.45
George W. Petty,	2.50
John Luddy,	87.00
W. L. Wadsworth,	10.50
George W. Howard,	96.00
C. P. Howard,	90.00
James McAnagh,	73.50
Joseph C. Howard,	130.17
Prescott Snell,	23.85
Edgar Billings,	33.40
Thomas Luddy,	70.65
Edward P. Dumbar,	10.40
William Gorman,	104.60
John J. Gilligan,	76.35
John Blake,	13.95
Horace Bartlett,	133.20
E. B. Wilbur,	129.85
Bradford Copeland.	85.40
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> 2,029.51

Amount brought forward,	\$2,029.51
Davis Copeland,	64.50
P. H. Bacon,	6.25
Warren Keith,	64.60
Samuel Copeland,	48.90
George Ellis,	20.25
John Ellis,	1.50
Peter Keenan,	7.50
John Duguid,	11.25
William Quinlan,	12.90
Est. P. O'Connor,	103.50
A. L. Alger,	98.35
William F. Ryder,	450.94
O. K. Ness,	14.70
Owen Conlin,	.90
Henry Doucette,	1.50
J. Q. Hartwell,	8.05
Andrew Munson,	32.98
J. A. Shores,	.75
Preston West,	4.80
David Fraher,	1.95
Thomas Snell,	1.35
W. K. Dickerson,	6.00
J. E. Ryder,	55.92
Charles Leonard,	3.00
E. A. Godfrey,	8.62
Willard Howard,	8.45
L. E. Hayward,	9.00
F. J. Hambly,	2.25
Michael Egan,	16.50
Charles H. Egan,	19.80
Patrick Keenan,	11.25
Charles Howard,	7.58
Charles Brown,	1.50
John Doucette,	3.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> 3,139.80

Amount brought forward,	\$3,139.80
L. E. & E Copeland,	12.90
John Robbins,	1.75
Thomas Hennessy,	3.75
Michael King,	11.25
C. C. Thayer,	16.15
Erland Thayer,	119.59
James McAnagh, Jr.	3.75
R. W. Morse,	2.25
William Penpraese,	4.50
J. L. Pittsly,	3.82
Charles Merrill,	4.35
Charles Vosmos,	3.38
C. T. Williams,	9.23
F. E. Howard,	6.80
L. A. Flagg,	122.51
F. W. Howard,	16.87

\$3,482.62

Appropriation for Highways,	\$3,500.00
Amount expended,	3,482.62

Baiance unexpended, \$17.38

We recommend the town to appropriate the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars for the repairs of roads and sidewalks.

ERLAND THAYER,	} <i>Road Commissioners.</i>
WM. F. RYDER,	
L. A. FLAGG.	

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

*Marriages recorded in West Bridgewater
in the year 1892*

- Feb. 1. Jeneus Dupuis of West Bridgewater to Laura Garney of Brockton.
- April 5. Conrad Ericson of Easton to Mary P. Bosworth of West Bridgewater.
- April 26. Cornelius Buckley to Bridget T. Hennessey, both of West Bridgewater.
- April 27. John Fallon to Geneva S. Dewyer, both of West Bridgewater.
- May 18. David H. Shields of West Bridgewater to Julia A. Daley of North Easton.
- June 2. Charles M. Wilde of Middleborough to Pamela Frances Wright of Middleborough.
- June 22. Frank E. Rounds to Annie M. Lyon, both of West Bridgewater.
- June 23. Edward McAnagh of West Bridgewater to Mary Hayes of Brockton.
- July 25. James E. Willis of Easton to Mabel G. West of West Bridgewater.
- Aug. 17. Stephen E. O'Neil of West Bridgewater to Margaret A. Conneys of Brockton.
- Sept. 24. Philip Kent of West Bridgewater to Jane Leary of Bridgewater.
- Oct. 2. William L. Packard of Lynn to Leonnie I. Richardson of East Bridgewater.
- Oct. 23. Daniel W. Burrill of Easton to Mary J. Harris of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 31. Howard E. Billings of West Bridgewater to Agnes M. Hemingway of South Braintree.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER DURING THE YEAR 1892.

25

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1891.			
March 2	Henry Phillips Millett.	Male	Herbert A. and Affie G. (Holley) Millett.
" 3	John Francis McAnaugh.	"	James F. Abbie M. (Smith) McAnaugh.
" 17	William P. Curran.	"	Martin and Ellen (Burke) Curran.
July 19	John Lynch.	"	Daniel and Joanna (Robinson) Lynch.
August 13	Michael Lynch.	"	Michael and Nellie (Corbet) Lynch.
December 30	Nyrtle Louise Copeland.	Female	Lynan E. and Louise F. (Hartwell) Copeland.
1892.			
January 1	Hattie F. Randall.	"	William F. and Clara F. (Britton) Randall.
" 4	Alice M. O'Neill.	"	John and Margaret (Hennessey) O'Neill.
February 3	Lizzie May Wilds.	"	Edwin L. and Caroline E. (Swift) Wilds.
" 4	Alice Holmes Ryder.	"	Joseph E. and Ellen H. (Benson) Ryder.
" 4	Frederick D. Williamson.	Male	Joseph D. and Flora A. (Bartlett) Williamson.
" 20	Narcisse Belmore.	"	Octave and Elise (Cadeau) Belmore.
March 5	Annie Robbins.	Female	John D. and Mary K. (Doucette) Robbins.
April 15	Grace Edson Weston.	"	H. Eugene and Mary F. (Caldwell) Weston.
" 17	Herbert Edland.	Male	Charles and Albertine (Lindstrom) Edland.
May 10	Frederick A. Munson.	"	Andrew and Ida Sophie (Nelson) Munson.
" 15	Laura May Cyr.	Female	Vital and Lea (Dupuis) Cyr.
June 8	Lorenzo Dow Merrill.	Male	Charles H. and Eva A. (Mudgett) Merrill.
" 10	John Lewis.	"	Manual and Elizabeth Lewis.
" 12	Warren Sherman Keith.	"	Warren R. and Lizzie St. John (Dow) Keith.
July 9	Edward Frank Heaps.	"	Albert and Maria Heaps.
" 9	Arthur Everett Cobbett.	"	Viola A. Cobbett.
August 6	Helen Covington Howard.	Female	Clinton P. and Hattie F. (Alger) Howard.
September 14	Ruth Otis Brooks.	Female	Benjamin F. and Alice (Hall) Brooks.
" 28	George Gilbert Coughlan.	Male	Michael G. and Nora (McGrath) Coughlan.
October 14	Ralph O. Edson.	"	Orrin E. and Alma J. (Woodman) Edson.
" 14	John Irving Burke.	"	John and May (Pittsley) Burke.
" 21	Jane Middleton Parry.	Female	George W. and Susan M. (Middleton) Parry.
" 26	Percy Cleveland Packard.	Male	Arthur P. and Almira E. (Macomber) Packard.
" 30	Abby Helen Copeland.	Female	Samuel G. and Carrie A. (deLeonard) Copeland.
" 31	Henry Arthur Parry.	Male	Henry W. and Catharine (McLean) Parry.

There is a very general impression amongst parents that it is the duty of the town clerk to canvass the town for births each year; to the contrary, however, the law requires parents to report the births of their children to him. Section 32, Public Statutes reads as follows:—Parents shall give notice to the clerk of their city or town of the births and deaths of their children; every householder shall give like notice of every birth and death happening in his house; the oldest person next of kin shall give such notice of the death of his kindred; the keeper of a workhouse, house of correction, prison, hospital, or almshouse, except the state almshouse, and the master or other commanding officer of a ship, shall give like notice of every birth and death among the persons under his charge. Whoever neglects to give such notice for the space of six months after a birth or death shall forfeit a sum not exceeding five dollars.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER DURING THE YEAR 1892.

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1892.							
Jan. 3	Philo P. Leonard.	87	11	10	Pneumonia.	Wareham.	James and Mary (Briggs) Leonard.
" 5	Laura C. Penpraese.		4	6	Bronchial Catarrh.	W. Bridgewater.	William and Catharine (Shaw) Penpraese.
" 6	Stillman W. Hersey.	73			Pneumonia.	E. Bridgewater.	John and Sarah L. Hersey.
" 14	Hattie F. Randall.		11	14	Canker.	W. Bridgewater.	William F. and Clara F. (Britton) Randall.
" 17	William H. Farnham.	73	11	14	"La Grippe."	Milton.	William Farnham mother's name unknown
" 19	Abbar Lendh.		6	4	Convulsions.	Brocton.	Charles W. Hildah C. (Johnson) Lendh.
" 26	Patrick Cronin.	24			Exposure.	Ireland.	John and Ellen Cronin.
Feb. 16	Robert Quinlan.	10	2		Drowning.	W. Bridgewater.	Patrick and Margaret (Searson) Quinlan.
" 21	Narcisse Belmore.			1	Wealhenen.	"	Narcisse and Elise (Cadeau) Belmore.
Mar. 10	Albert Copeland.	72	3	8	Apoplexy.	"	Albert and Anne H. (Williams) Copeland.
" 14	Robert O'Fallon.	72	2		Heart Disease.	Ireland.	Edward and Catharine (Crahen) O'Fallon.
" 18	Catharine Galvin.	16	6	26	Phthisis.	Bridgewater.	Michael and Anne (Sheridan) Galvin.
Apr. 9	Sylvanus Packard.	76	9	30	Mitral Insufficiency.	Brocton.	David and Susan (Perkins) Packard.
" 14	Betsey Wood.	82	7	24	Scrofulosis.	Middleborough.	Israel and Sally Smith.
" 17	Timothy F. Luddy.	23	8	7	Phthisis.	W. Bridgewater.	John and Mary (Fraher) Luddy.
" 18	William R. Luddy.	22	6	18	"	W. Bridgewater.	John and Mary (Fraher) Luddy.
May 19	Thomas Claucy.	32			"	Ireland.	Parents unknown.
" 23	Edward W. Hayward.	79	6	10	Senile Debility.	W. Bridgewater.	Edward and Perny (Howard) Hayward.
June 2	Catharine Brady.	41			Unknown.	Canada.	Dennis and Margaret (Richards) Brady.
" 5	Elizabeth Dunbar.	68			Bright's Disease.	Gardner, Me.	Abiathar and Jane (Fullmore) Carlton.
July 21	Mary F. Tinkham.	51	8	20	Mitral Insufficiency.	W. Bridgewater.	Francis and Matilda A. Dunbar.
" 30	Herbert Edland.		3	13	Cholera Infantum.	"	Charles and Alvertine (Lindstrom) Edland.
Aug. 8	Walter Edward Toomey.		11	10	"	"	Patrick F. and Elizabeth (Heaphy) Toomey.
" 23	John H. Adams.	63	7	6	Apoplexy.	Boston.	James and Honovah (Roberts) Adams.
" 31	Joseph Robbins.	4	9	17	Dysentery.	North Woburn.	John D. and Kate (Doucette) Robbins.
Oct. 18	Margaret O'Neil.	29	10	15	Ulceration of Bowels.	Ireland.	Thomas and Mary (White) Hennessy.
Dec. 31	Anna Dunbar.	42	3	21	Phthisis.	Ireland.	Timothy and Catharine (Twining) Sullivan.

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth, ss.:

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater,
in the County of Plymouth, Greeting :*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the sixth day of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following articles, viz :

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question : "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town ?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the Selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will raise one hundred dollars for public lectures.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 9. To see if the town will order the road commissioners to build a sidewalk on South Main street, and appropriate money for the same. (By request.)

ART. 10 To see if the town will authorize the road commissioners to purchase a stone for crushing machine to prepare stone for the roads and appropriate money for the same. (By request of the road commissioners.)

ART. 12. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

There are now in the library 3,813 volumes, 95 having been added during the year 1892.

The number of books of the several classes, loaned during the year is as follows, viz :

Agriculture	7
Art,	9
Biography,	226
Fiction,	2451
General Literature,	288
History,	197
Humerous Works,	40
Junenile Works,	700
Magazines,	1047
Poetry,	190
Works of Reference	19
Religion and Theology,	17
Science,	120
Travels,	126
Public Documents,	2
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Total,	5,439

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

Received from Town Treasurer,	\$270.73
“ “ fines, sales of catalogue and cards,	16.81
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	\$287.54

Expenditures.

Librarian's salary,	\$104.36
Estes & Lauriat,	93.23
Durny's History of Rome,	40.00
W. B. Clarke & Co.,	14.85
Oil, express, postage and stationary,	9.56
M. S. Curtis, (painting)	8.00
W. E. Fay, (printing)	9.00
Miss Kingman, (books purchased)	6.18
Book Buyer,	1.00
Balance from old account,	1.36
	<hr/>
	\$287.54

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees,

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1892 the following were members of the committee :

J. A. SHORES and Mrs. M. K. CROSBY for three years.
G. C. HOWARD and W. H. BOSWORTH for two years.
Mrs. A. S. LELACHEUR and B. PERKINS for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows :

J. A. SHORES, *Chairman*.
M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.
B. PERKINS and G. C. HOWARD, *Committee on Repairs*.
B. PERKINS and G. C. HOWARD, *Truant officers*.

The schools were assigned as follows :

North and North Centre to Mr. Perkins.
Cochesett to Mr. Howard.
Centre to Mrs. LeLacheur.
South to Mr. Shores.
East and Matfield to Mrs Crosby.
Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

To J. A. Shores, A. S. LeLacheur and M. K. Crosby was assigned the examination of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby was appointed agent for school supplies.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS.

Paid Miss R. L. MacDonald,	32 weeks,	\$304 00
“ Miss E. E. Wilson,	32 “	287 10
“ Miss F. A. Dunn,	17 “	170 00
“ Miss I. S. Wood,	29 “	290 00
“ Miss E. A. Morrow,	16 “	160 00
“ Miss L. W. Copeland,	3 “	27 00
“ Miss W. A. Holmes,	34 “	340 00
“ Miss L. V. Wesel,	18 “	180 00
“ Miss E. V. Wadsworth,	16 “	160 00
“ Miss M. Alden,	32 “	304 00
“ Miss M. A. Dewyre,	32 “	320 00
“ Miss M. C. Keith,	32 “	320 00
“ Miss L. A. Burke,	10 $\frac{3}{5}$ “	95 40
“ Miss H. Hill,	4 “	36 00
“ Mrs. L. M. Toothaker,	16 “	160 00
		<hr/>
		\$3,153 50

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$7 00
Cochesett,	21 20
Centre,	22 00
South,	12 00
East,	12 00
Matfield,	12 00
North,	12 00
North Centre,	12 00
	<hr/>
	\$110 20

FUEL.

Paid E. T. Snell, 7 cords hard wood,	\$35 00
“ “ 3½ cords pine wood,	14 00
Owen King, labor on wood,	20 00
P. K. Bacon, 5 cords hard wood,	25 00
“ “ 2 cords of pine wood,	8 00
C. T. Williams 1 cord pine wood	4 00
W. Penpraise, labor on wood,	18 50
J. E. Ryder, 4 cords oak, 1 cord pine,	24 00
C. Keene, labor on wood,	11 69
Erland Thayer, ½ cord pine wood,	2 00
B. Perkins, labor on wood	18 00
Bradford Copeland, 1 cord pine wood,	4 00
L. A. Flagg, 2 cords hard wood,	10 00
“ “ 1½ cords pine wood,	6 00
L. E. & E. Copeland, ½ cord pine wood,	2 00
“ “ “ labor on 4 cords wood,	8 00
H. Bartlett, 6 ft. oak wood,	4 13
Thomas Ladd, labor on wood, &c.,	4 50
F. Vosmus, 5 cords oak wood,	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$243 82

Expenditures.

Teachers' wages,	\$3,153.50
Fuel,	243.82
Janitors,	110 20
	<hr/>
	\$3,507.52

Receipts.

Town grant,	\$3,750.00
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REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid C. P. Hillstrum, labor and zinc, 4 stoves,	\$6 00
“ “ labor and 2 stove screens,	12 50
“ “ labor and stock, cleaning	
10 stoves and pipes,	38 75
C. P. Hilstrum, stove for Centre,	30 00
Gurney Bros. 3 clocks and labor,	13 25
J. H. Potter, repairing 4 clocks	4 65
H. A. Millett, labor at North Centre,	22 35
“ “ teaming and materials,	7 00
J. L. Hammett, 2 maps of Mass.,	7 50
“ “ 7 sets relief maps &c.,	21.50
For labor and stock for closet, (Jerusalem,)	11 37
G. H. Stone, labor on black boards,	4 07
Jarvis Burrill, printing and materials,	7 26
Alger's Express,	7 05

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	6 88
Cochesett,	13 30
South,	9 05
Centre,	13 65
East,	10 35
Matfield	5 15
North,	7 90
North Centre,	8 95

Whole amount of repairs,	\$268 48
Town grant,	300 00

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid D. H. Knowlton & Co., school periodicals	\$1 20
The Thorp & Martin Manufacturing Company, paper, pencils, pens, and other supplies,	67 23
American Book Co., geographies, spelling blanks, copy-books, histories, and language, tablets.	43 71
J. L. Hammett, paper and dictionaries,	7 32
Ginn & Co., readers	2 50
Wm. Ware & Co., readers and arithmetics,	7 34
Silver, Burdett & Co., readers,	5 00
Leach, Shewell & Sanborn, grammars, language and number lessons,	26 86
Prang Educational Co., drawing supplies,	2 98
Boston School Supply Co., readers and histories,	2 40
University Pub. Co., dictionaries,	11 00
	<hr/>
	\$177 54
Inventory of stock on hand January 31, 1892,	\$13.16
Amount drawn from town treasury,	177 54
	<hr/>
	\$190 70
Inventory of new stock on hand Dec 31, 1892,	31 88
Supplies furnished schools,	158 82
	<hr/>
	\$190 75

New Text Books on hand Dec. 31, 1892.

Readers, grammars, dictionaries, arithmetics, geographies and spellers,	\$15 16
Copy, drawing and exercise books,	9.51

Miscellaneous Supplies.

Paper, pencils, pens &c.,	7 21
	<hr/>
	\$31 88

The average membership in the schools for the year has been 233.5, and the cost of supplies furnished by the town has been \$158 82 or 68 cents per scholar.

The school census for May 1, 1892 gave 279 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these 233 were in the common schools, 3 in the Howard school, 4 taught at home, 12 (10 of whom were above 14 years and 1 above 13 years at work, 3 incompetent, 7 sick, 15 young and not yet in school, and 2 out for other reasons.

Whole number of pupils enrolled for the year,	298
Number that have left town,	18
Number that have moved into town,	26

We are indebted to Professor Willard for these statistics of the town pupils under his charge in the High School.

Number admitted in Sept. 1892,	10
Number attending Jan. 1893,	25
Number of different pupils for the year,	36
Percentage of attendance for Fall term	92.24

CALENDAR FOR 1893.

WINTER TERM, Jan. 9 to Mar. 24, 1893. 11 weeks.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 10 to June 16. 10 weeks.

Vacation, 12 weeks.

FALL TERM, Sept. 11 to Dec. 22. 15 weeks.

Recess, Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

WINTER TERM, 1894, JAN. 8th.

Changes may be made in this to accommodate different schools.

Children sentenced under the truant laws will be cared for at the Union County Truant School, at Walpole.

The old South Primary school building was sold at public auction in the autumn and has been removed. Some clearing away of the foundations remained to be done.

As the income of the Mass. School Fund is not sent to the towns until the last of January in each year, our financial account shows nothing from that source, but hereafter we shall have the advantage of knowing early in the year the total amount available for school expenses.

On account of the financial year closing Dec. 31, our accounts for this year show payments to the teachers (in most schools) for 32 weeks beginning about Feb. 15th.

The balance was included in the accounts for 1891 & '92.

We leave a balance in the treasury from the special appropriations for schools, and also from the grant for repairs.

In April two meetings of the joint school committees of Raynham, East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater, were held for the purpose,—first of organization, and afterwards of selecting a superintendent for the Union District formed by the three towns.

Roscoe D. McKeen of Danforth, Me., was chosen for the position and entered upon the work May 20th. Following as far as practicable the proportionate number of schools in the several towns, it was agreed by the joint committee that the twenty school days of each month should be given by the Superintendent to the towns as follows, viz: Raynham, 5 days, West Bridgewater, 6½ days, and East Bridgewater, 8½ days.

The short time remaining in the Spring term after May 20th., was used in our town by Mr. McKeen in visiting all of the schools with the former Superintendent, and in assisting the teachers to select candidates for the entrance examination at the High School.

Our schools are prospering under the efficient care of our Superintendent and we refer all interested, to his report for suggestions and plans of work, from which we may confidently expect excellent results after sufficient time has been allowed for carrying them out.

The Course of Study and Rules and Regulations prepared by our Superintendent and adopted by our Board has been printed with the intention of supplying a copy to each family from which pupils attend our schools.

We heartily endorse the suggestions respecting music made by Mr. McKeen and have asked for \$150 additional in the appropriations, to enable us to supply instruction in this branch, beyond what the teachers give.

Acts of 1888. Chapter 431.

STATE AID FOR SUPERINTENDENTS.

3. Whenever the chairman and secretary of such joint committee shall certify to the state auditor, under oath, that a union has been effected as herein provided, that the towns, in addition to an amount equal to the average of the total sum paid by the several towns for schools during the three years next preceeding, unitedly have raised by taxatlon and appropriated a sum not less than seven hundred and fifty dollars for the support of a superintendent of schools, and that under the provisions of this act a superintendent of schools has been employed for one year, a warrant shall be drawn upon the treasurer of the Commonwealth for the payment of one thousand dollars, one-half of which amount shall be paid for the salary of such superintendent and the remaining one-half shall be apportioned and distributed on the basis of the average public school attendance of the towns forming such district for the year next preceeding, which amount shall be paid for the salaries of teachers employed in the public schols within such district.

About the last of May we shall receive from the State our share of the \$500 given to aid the district supervision, above the \$500 paid directly toward the salary of the superintendent.

The average attendance for the three towns is 708, ours being 202 of this.

Our share of the \$500 will be \$142.65, leaving from the \$250 appropriated by the town for the union supervision, a balance of \$107.35 the actual cost to the town for the year.

The sub-committee appointed by our Board to consider plans for a new school house in the north part of our town, report that a suitable building with two school rooms on the ground floor could be erected at a probable cost of \$2800, exclusive of seating, heating and cost of the land.

Our estimates for 1893 cover a school year of 36 weeks.

The appropriations recommended for this year are these :

For the support of schools,	\$4,150.00
For furnishings and repairs,	300.00
For text books and supplies,	175.00

There should be two members of the School Board chosen for three years at the annual town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. SHORES,	} <i>School Committee.</i>
M. K. CROSBY,	
A. S. LELACHEUR,	
B. PERKINS,	
W. H. BOSWORTH,	
G. C. HOWARD,	

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Jan. 21, 1891.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the School Committee of the town of West Bridgewater.

I take pleasure in submitting to you my report of the schools of the town of West Bridgewater for the year ending Dec. 31st., 1892.

Although I have virtually had charge of the schools since the latter part of May, my report covers only that portion of the school-year from September until the close of the fall term as I had opportunity only to make an average of one visit to a school for the summer term.

I have issued a blank form for a monthly report from the teachers, for the purpose of obtaining a more comprehensive knowledge of the condition of the different schools.

By means of these reports the following statistics have been gathered which may be of some general interest :

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Whole No. registered for Fall Term.		Average no. belonging.		Whole no. of absences.		Average daily attendance.		*Per cent of daily attendance.		No. of pupils over 15 years of age.		No. of half-days of truancy.		No. of cases of tardiness.		No. of cases of dismissal.		No. of cases of corporal punishment.		†No. times the teacher has been tardy.		No. half-days teacher has been absent.		No. of visits and calls by the School Com.		No of visits and calls by Superintendent.		No of visits and calls by others.	
Centre Grammar	26	25.11	165	23.97	95+	1	0	58	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	80										
Centre Primary	22	19.46	223	17.88	91+	0	0	52	21	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	16										
Cochesett Grammar	22	2.08	205	19.39	92+	1	1	20	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	45										
Cochesett Primary	29	26.28	333	25.2	92+	0	0	19	31	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	42										
South	25	23.74	511	19.37	82	0	0	84	15	0	0	3	4	3	16	16	16	4	3	16										
East	24	23.01	402	20.01	88+	0	0	15	14	5	0	2	4	6	17	17	16	4	4	17										
Matfield	35	31.37	449	28.87	90+	0	0	16	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	12										
Jerusalem	31	29.68	675	24.79	85+	0	0	17	5	1	0	1	1	1	6	33	33	1	6	33										
North Centre	25	23.92	376	21.75	89+	1	0	98	17	4	1	0	1	0	5	3	63	5	3	63										
North	22	21.5	128	20.93	96+	0	0	45	95	20	1	22	4	6	8			4	6	8										

*1. The basis of the per cent of attendance is the average number belonging, and not the whole number enrolled.

2. A pupil who is present less than half a school session must be marked absent.

3. A pupil is not counted in this report in either of the following cases:

(1) When the teacher has reliable information that the pupil has left the school not to return.

(2) When the pupil has been suspended from school.

†Teachers are required to be present fifteen minutes before the commencement of the morning exercises, and ten minutes before the afternoon exercises unless a special permission is otherwise obtained from the Superintendent.

ATTENDANCE.

Only one case of truancy in the schools of this town has come to my notice. Several cases have been reported in which children have absented themselves from school, presumably by consent of their parents or guardian.

The results of this, as regards the school work, are just as bad as in cases of truancy. A child who is absent during one recitation actually *loses* the benefit of two days' recitation in the same study; for one lesson lost wholly unfits him to receive the next; the child soon falls behind his class, and to the surprise of his parents, he is set back into the next lower grade. Rarely is it absolutely necessary that a parent should require a child to lose a day from school except on account of sickness. I would urge that the parents make an extra effort to have their children regular and punctual in attendance.

Our teachers would then feel more encouraged, they could accomplish more in the same time, the average attendance of the school would be raised, the children would manifest greater interest in the schools, and a desire for study would be awakened.

COURSE OF STUDY.

On entering upon his duties, your Superintendent found a Course of Study laid out for the schools of West Bridgewater. But as this course was prepared for the schools as they were at the time of its adoption, it seemed wholly inadequate to the wants of the schools for this year.

Under the care of an efficient Superintendent your pupils had proved themselves capable of doing more work in a given time than was laid out.

It was evident that a Course of Study was much needed, in order that our excellent teachers might do good and sys-

tematic work. Such a course was presented for your consideration and was adopted by you near the beginning of the fall term.

The introduction of this Course into the schools called for a partial regrading in some schools, and although a very few instances of disappointment occurred at first in consequence of the regrading, all seemed to recognize that it was decidedly best to conform to the judgment of those having this duty in charge.

This Course covers a period of eight years, and pupils satisfactorily completing the studies of the same ought to be fitted to enter the Howard High School.

TEACHERS.

My associations with the teachers you have selected to work with me have been pleasant, and I have the most friendly feelings toward them, as I hope they have toward me. Whatever I may suggest will depend upon the individual teacher for its efficiency in carrying it out. Our teachers have been zealous and interested and I can but speak in terms of commendation of their work.

In the character of the teacher is found the directive and inspiring force which shapes the work of the school to the largest or least results. Whatsoever, then shows that teachers of larger experience and higher qualifications are in the schools, and whatsoever shows greater permanence of the same teachers in the same schools are evidences of a better quality of instruction.

At the close of the summer term, several changes in teachers were made. Those who left were:

Miss Wesel, of the Centre Grammar School,

“ Dunn, “ “ Cochesett “ “

Mrs. Toothaker, “ “ North Centre “

They were succeeded by:

Miss Elida V. Wadsworth in the Centre Gram. School.

“ Emma A. Morrow “ “ Cochesett “ “

“ Mary C. Keith transferred from the North to the
North Centre School,

Miss Lucy A. Burke in the North School.

Other things being equal, too frequent changes in teachers usually result in a waste of time and effort of teacher and pupils. The changes of teachers this year have taken place during the summer vacation, so that the schools have not suffered from interruptions in the term.

Miss Burke's temporary absence on account of sickness for the last three weeks of the fall term was provided for in a very satisfactory manner by engaging the services of Miss Henrietta Hill of East Bridgewater.

SALARIES.

Our schools are frequently visited by Superintendents in search of desirable teachers, and by offering greater compensation, they are often successful in securing teachers whom our schools can ill afford to lose.

If talent and ability are to be estimated at their worth, some of our teachers are underpaid.

I believe that efficiency and experience should determine the salary of a teacher, rather than the custom of grading the salaries according to the consecutive stages of classification of the schools.

I believe, too, that the teacher of an ungraded school should receive as much salary, if not *more* than those of the graded schools provided that she proves herself efficient in her work.

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

With your permission, I have held several meetings at which the teachers have all been present, and much interest and enthusiasm has been manifested.

These meetings have been far from being formal, for each teacher has been free to suggest or ask questions. The time has not been fully occupied by myself, but each teacher has taken a part in the discussion of the latest and best methods of teaching Reading, Arithmetic, Geography, Language etc.

I can say that these meetings have ^{been}~~been~~ good fruit, and I have noticed numerous cases in which the points made prominent have been put into successful operation in the school room. Besides the above named meetings, I have been successful in bringing about a meeting of the teachers of this town and those of East Bridgewater, at which State Agent J. T. Prince addressed the teachers and gave them very valuable and profitable instruction.

GRADING AND PROMOTIONS.

If provisions were made so that pupils of Grades VII and VIII in town could all attend one Grammar School for two years preparatory to entering the Howard High School, the pupils would then command equal privileges in the school room; there would not be that diversity in attainment among the pupils which arises largely from the diversity in methods of instruction, and better work could be accomplished.

But, as you lacked the necessary means for transportation and the room for the accommodation of the pupils, I concluded that for the present, it would be well to make the best of what means you had.

In the Centre and Cochesett Schools we are trying to fit for the High School in two rooms with four grades in each room. By permission from the parents, the older pupils from the North School have been sent to the North Centre

School, thereby virtually grading the two schools, making a Primary grade of the North School and a Grammar grade of the North Centre School. By thus establishing a Grammar School in three different parts of the town, one of them ought to be accessible to all pupils of the Grammar grade.

At the beginning of the fall term you adopted the following system of marking for the Public Schools of this town:— Work that is excellent should be marked, A; satisfactory work should be marked, B; unsatisfactory work should be marked, C. The above system has been in use since its adoption and has merited success.

By this method, the old percentage system so largely used in many towns and cities is avoided, by means of which pupils are allowed to cheat, cram, or use other desperate efforts in order to obtain high percentages for promotion.

Believing that some record should be kept by which school officials and others interested may know the standing of any pupil at any time, I think that the system now in use will show, in a fair way, a better record of the pupils' labors. I believe that pupils ought to be credited and promoted not only according to the results obtained, but according to their efforts made in obtaining certain results.

While tests of some sort are necessary in a graded system of schools and should be frequently given, their purpose ought to be to ascertain how much thought power has been developed, and to train the pupils to express themselves intelligently and legibly whenever required to do so.

Whatever system of marking may be employed, it will, by no means, be an infallible test of the amount of education the scholar has received.

I would add, that if, under a pains taking superintendent and an efficient teacher, a scholar for a year, obtains *A* or *B* in the studies of his grade, he should, without examination, be given a certificate of promotion to the next higher grade.

DRAWING.

Owing to the necessary changes and the extra amount of work required in some schools in consequence of the change in the Course of Study, very little work has been done in Form Study and Drawing.

Form Study is fast becoming an important part in our school work and more attention should be given to it. When the daily programme covers from eighteen to twenty-five recitations, some study must be slighted. As the so-called "common school studies" must have preference, the amount of time for Drawing must be curtailed.

MUSIC.

In nearly all the schools of this town, some work has been done in vocal music. In a few schools, quite an interest has been awakened in this study.

With Music as with any study, a good instructor is the first requisite to success. The teacher of Music should be one who not only knows the subject thoroughly and who has the faculty to impart, but one who can easily gain good-will of the smaller children.

As such a large percentage of the pupils in town are young and in the lower grades, it seems quite reasonable that a lady instructor could accomplish better results than a gentleman of equal musical ability.

While the instructor should be held responsible for methods employed and for general results, it is of vital importance that this instruction be supplemented by the assistance of fellow instructors in the daily class work.

I, therefore, recommend to your consideration the employment of a special teacher of Music for the schools of West Bridgewater, for one day in a week.

Certainly, we should in no way neglect an art that contributes so much to human happiness, and which, by its refining influence, has tended to make the world not only happier but better.

SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Seven of the school buildings in town are in good repair.

I recommend that a school house be built on suitable grounds near Copeland's corner, to accommodate the pupils that now attend the North and North Centre Schools.

The North School building is in very poor condition and the cost to repair the same so that it would be neat and attractive, would equal that of building a new school house. Besides, the grounds are neither suitable nor in a desirable location. At the North Centre, the school building is not in as bad condition, but if a two-room building could be built to accommodate the children of both schools, the schools could be graded and the children would then have the same advantages as those at Cochset and the Centre.

IN CONCLUSION.

I wish to express to your former Superintendent my highest appreciation of the assistance and kind suggestions she has given me in my duties. To you as a Committee, I extend my sincere thanks for the confidence you have reposed in me and for your constant aid and support in my efforts to elevate the schools, and my thanks are also due to the citizens of West Bridgewater for their cordial assent to our plans and their hearty co-operation in executing them.

Respectfully,

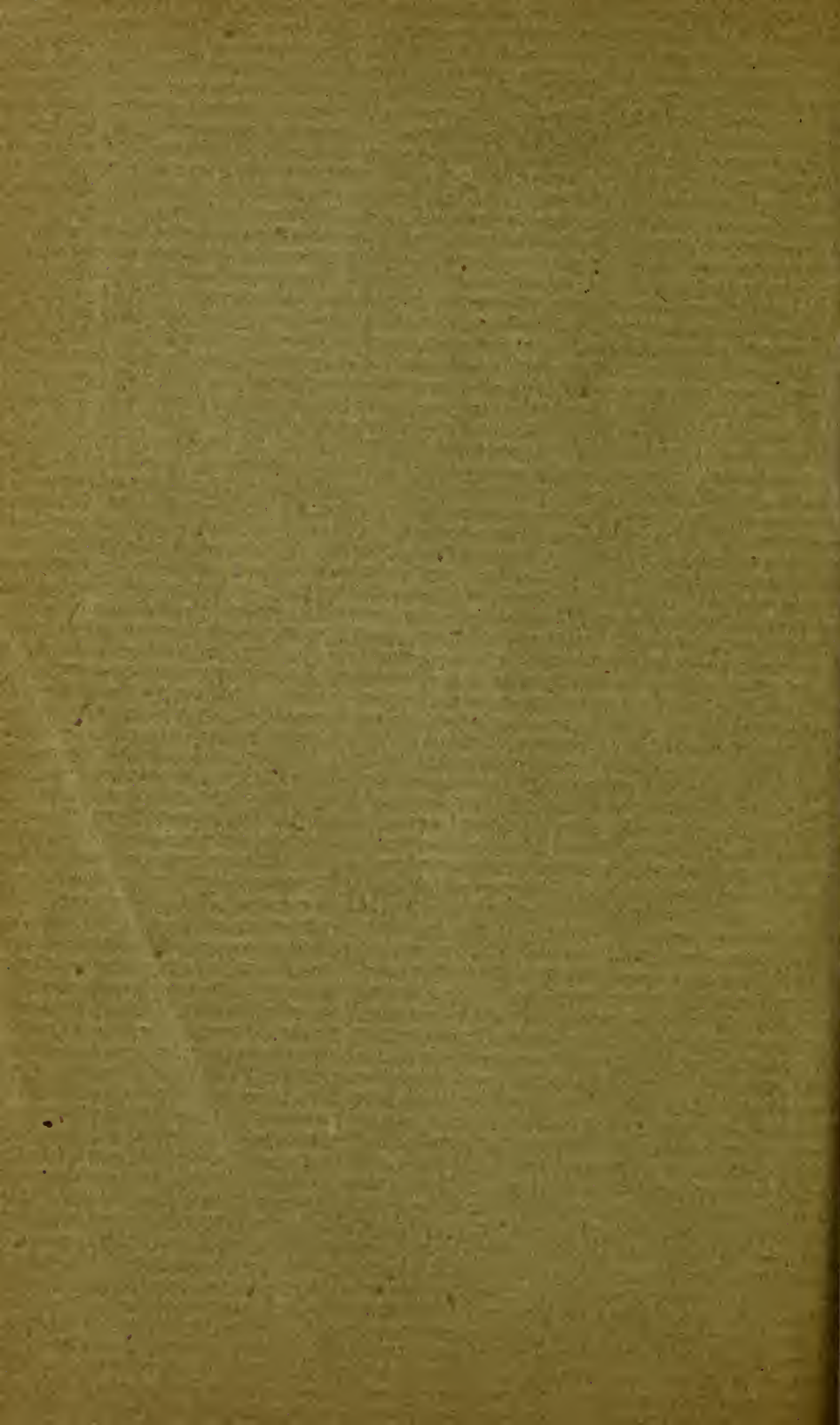
R. D. McKEEN,

Supt. of Schools.

Jan. 14, 1893.

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
OF
WEST BRIDGEWATER
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1894.

TAUNTON :
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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1893.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND ASSESSORS.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,

SAMUEL G. COPELAND.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY,

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

GEO. C. HOWARD,

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,

WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH,

BENJAMIN PERKINS.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

CHARLES R. PACKARD,

MRS. EMILINE B. COPELAND,

MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN,

MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

HORACE M. WILLARD.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

JOSEPH C. HOWARD,

WILLIAM F. RYDER

LOREN A. FLAGG.

CONSTABLES.

ELLIS R. HOLBROOK,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

JOSIAH A. PERKINS,

DANIEL W. GARDNER,

CHARLES H. EGAN.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

FIELD DRIVERS.

JOHN FALLON,

GEORGE N. BLANCHARD,

WM. H. STAPLES.

FENCE VIEWERS.

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

DAVIS COPELAND.

LOREN A. FLAGG.

MEASURERS OF LUMBER.

LESTER P. RIPLEY,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

SAMUEL L. RYDER,

DANIEL P. DAVIS.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

FRANK JONES,

GEORGE A. VOSMUS,

JOSEPH E. RYDER,

MOLBRY A. RIPLEY.

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FOBES,

LUCIUS DUNBAR,

EDWARD H. KEITH.

AUDITORS,

CHARLES E. TISDALE,

H. W. HOWARD.

POUND KEEPER.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town, January 1, 1894, is respectfully submitted :

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION.

As Assessed May 1, 1893.

Value of real estate,	\$934,701.00
Value of personal estate,	169.102.00
Total,	<u>\$1,103,803.00</u>

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$1,225.00	
County tax,	1,517.03	
	<u>2,742.03</u>	
Town grant,	12,275.00	
Overlay,	338.15	
	<u>\$12,613.15</u>	
Subsequent assessment,		59.05
Total tax,		<u>\$15,414.23</u>
Rate of tax, \$13.00 per \$1,000.	Poll tax—Males, \$2.00	

Number of polls,	503
acres of land	9,847
dwelling houses,	419
horses,	395
cows,	643
sheep,	28
swine,	77
young stock,	108
fowls,	6,853

APPROPRIATIONS.

For support of schools	\$4,150.00
school supplies and repairs,	475.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks,	4,000.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
memorial service,	100.00
lectures,	100.00
School Superintendent,	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$12,275.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Value of New Almshouse and wood-house,	\$5,000.00
town farm,	3,500.00
personal property,	2,121.28
nine school-houses,	13,000.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	100.00
road scraper,	100.00

JOSEPH A. SHORES,
 E. BRADFORD WILBUR, } *Assessors.*
 SAMUEL G. COPELAND, }

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE JAN. 1st, 1894.

9 tons English hay,	\$180.00
3½ tons meadow and swale hay,	35.00
corn,	35.00
4 bushel beans,	8.00
10 cows,	400.00
1 horse,	90.00
18 fowls,	12.00
4 heifers,	50.00
2 oxen,	160.00
200 bushels potatoes,	160.00
1 bushel onions,	1.00
8 bushels beets,	4.00
cabbage,	50.00
150 lbs. pork,	18.00
15 lbs. lard,	1.80
3 lbs. butter,	.96
2 bbls. flour,	10.00
groceries,	5.00
290 lbs. sugar,	14.50
4 lbs. tea,	2.00
2 pork barrels,	1.00
soap and oil,	.50
hay knife,	1.25
express wagon,	10.00
step ladder,	1.25
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenter's tools,	9.00
Amount carried forward	<hr/> \$1264.26

Amount brought forward,	\$1 224.26
hay cutter,	4.00
5 stoves,	15.00
grind stone,	4.00
wheel hoe,	6.00
household furniture,	210.00
tinware,	10.00
crockery, etc.,	15.00
3 churns,	8.00
wooden ware,	15.00
beds and bedding,	95.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
2 hay wagons,	50.00
1 covered wagon,	40.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
1 pung,	8.00
harnesses,	25.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	8.00
robes and blankets,	6.00
mowing machine and rake,	40.00
6 plows 3 harrows and other tools,	70.00
horse sled,	7.00
manure and ashes,	100.00
coal,	13.00
2 ladders,	3.00
washing machine,	10.00
wood and lumber,	35.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,120.26
Inventory Jan. 1st, 1893,	1,897.76
	<hr/>
Gain in Inventory,	\$222.50

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1893.	\$.62
for milk,	891.10
stock,	212.89
potatoes and onions,	53.30
eggs,	2.80
lumber,	83.65
cabbage,	18.21
squash,	6.50
peas,	3.00
beets,	1.50
corn,	35.26
wood,	7.00
Drawn from treasury for L. R. Churchill, repairs,	32.27
" " " L. A. Flagg, repairs & seeds	62.50
" " " Chas. E. Leonard, for 2 pigs	8.00
" " " Geo. H. Holmes, groceries,	202.04
" " " S. G. Copeland, for stock,	88.51
" " " Keeler & Co. for furniture,	41.75
" " " E. B. Wilbur, tools, fertilizer	82.00
" " " J. M. Howard, groceries,	48.00
" " " L. H. Adams, smith work,	26.55
" " " Brown & Willey, groceries,	36.87
" " " J. A. Fuller, salary,	85.83
" " " J. O. Dean, for grain and fertilizer,	462 98
	<hr/>
	\$2,493.13

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	47.25
meat,	194.87
fish,	15.16
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward	\$257.28

Amount brought forward	\$257.28
Paid for wooden ware,	6.94
grass and garden seeds,	25.45
smith work,	30.05
clothing,	42.82
soap,	16.14
tin ware,	6.62
glass ware,	2.27
crockery,	2.40
sugar,	51.32
seed potatoes	21.20
apples,	9.46
lard,	4 40
shoes,	26.87
repairs,	87.92
tobacco,	14.27
salt,	1.68
fertilizer,	91.40
butter and groceries,	140.42
grain,	427.64
farming tools,	56.25
oil,	7.70
stock,	314.20
use of stock,	1.00
beans,	3.82
cheese,	5.43
sundries,	1.43
labor,	238.44
hay,	19.36
hardware,	12.85
crackers,	14.72
pork barrel,	.37
squash,	.98
saw bill,	50.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$2,003.10

Amount brought forward,	\$2,003.10
Paid for new furniture,	62.35
wardens salary, balance 1892,	17.91
“ “ “ 1893,	350.00
Due from Wm. E. Cole,	18.12
J. H. Adams, est.	9.25
W. A. Barnes, est.	10.00
Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1894,	22.40
	<hr/>
	\$2,493.13

COST OF SUPPORTING POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from treasury per almshouse account,	\$1177.30
Gain in inventory,	\$223 50
Cash on hand and unpaid bills,	59.77
	<hr/>
	283.27
	<hr/>
	\$894.03

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	80	52
Albert Staples,	51	52
Conn Sullivan,	59	52
George B. Randall,	67	52
Michael Ryan,	45	52
Ansel Alger,	66	52
Mrs. Mary Allison,	24	15
Carroll “	5	15
Charles “	3	15
— “	1	15

The warden during the year has lodged and fed (52) fifty two tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Frank Fadden's children,	\$135.00
Fred Leonard,	194.25
Olive B. Shaw's children,	186.57
Abbie Fadden,	39.75
Mrs. Merton Churchill's children,	166.25
Mrs. Kenney,	68.00
Mrs. Duggan,	12.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	12.50
George W. Ellis,	23.00
Mrs. Frank Hayward (T. L. Hospital)	102.75
William A. Linehan,	81.00

Total Cost,	<u>\$1,021.07</u>
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Received from State, for Geo. W. Ellis,	\$23.00
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Due from Plympton, for N. Pratt,	12.50
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“ John P. Hayward, for Mrs. F. Hayward,	102.75
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Received and due,	<u>\$138.25</u>
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Expense of poor out of honse,	882.82
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JOSEPH A. SHORES,	} Overseers
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	
S. G. COPELAND.	
	} of the
	} Poor.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,		\$800.00
Paid Enterprise Pub. Co. advertising,		8.56
Lewis E. Williams, burying a hog,		3.00
J. S. Sampson, printing reports,		40.80
C. P. Howard, rent town hall,		75.00
R. A. McKeen, printing,		1.20
Hosea Kingman, counsel Woodman case,		65.00
E. L. Brown, surveying road, “ “		30.53
S. H. Marshall, land for road,		25.00
L. J. Voigt, filling diplomas,		2.00
Jarvis Burrill, printing,		6.83
Daniel Perkins, rent of office,		18.00
G. R. Drake, oil and broom,		.27
Owen Conlon, repair of wall of old cemetery,		6.15
L. E. Hayward, mowing Pine st. cemetery,		1.00
Thomas Groom, collectors book,		1.65
J. A. Dodge, burying a dog,		1.00
William E. Fay, printing,		18.00
Henry Withington, care of monument grounds,		5.00
S. L. Ryder, voting booths,		17.47
Geo H. Holmes, sundries,		2.00
L. E. Chamberlain, counsel hen case,	10.00	
D. W. Gardner, officer “	20.26	
E. P. Spence, reward “	169.74	
	<hr/>	200.00
Amount carried forward,		<hr/> \$528.46

Amount brought forward,	\$528.46
Paid Charles McCann, returning deaths,	1.00
F. S. Howard, " "	4.75
Howard, Clark & Co. " "	1.25
George Hunt, " births,	4.00
Friend W. Howard, care of old cemetery,	3.00
Geo. M. Pratt, printing and postage,	8.00
E. B. Wilbur, inspecting cattle,	16.00
J. A. Shores, cash expenses, postage and use of team,	43.45
E. B. Wilbur, cash expenses and use of team,	27.14
Howard Clark & Co., 1890 bill,	6.50
	<hr/>
	\$643.55

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Appropriation for schools	\$4,150.00
" " school repairs and supplies,	475.00
" " superintendent,	250.00
Received from school fund,	234.64
" " state for superintendent,	142.65
" " damage to north school-house,	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,262.29

There has been drawn from the treasury for schools,	\$4,090.69
For superintendent of schools,	249.96
school supplies,	191.74
school repairs,	387.07
	<hr/>
	\$4,919.46
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	\$342.83

LIBRARY.

Drawn from the treasury for the Library,	\$414.20
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MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid William E. Cobbett,	100.00

LECTURES.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid Chas. R. Packard,	100.00

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$900.00
Paid Chas. E. Tisdale, auditor,	2.50
Horace W. Howard, auditor,	2.50
Chas. E. Tisdale, election officer,	3.60
Henry L. King, constable,	11.15
Daniel W. Gardner, constable,	125.53
Benj. Perkins, school committee,	2.00
Geo. C. Howard, moderator,	5.00
Ellis R. Holbroke, constable,	5.68
S. G. Copeland, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	66.25
Jos. A. Shores, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	226.35
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$450.56

Amount brought forward,		\$450.56
Paid E. B. Wilbur, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	146.25	
Chas. R. Packard, town clerk,	67.37	
Edward H. Keith, registrar,	9.75	
Lucius Dunbar, registrar,	6.00	
James A. Fobes, registrar,	5.25	
Frank Copeland, election officer,	1.80	
Chas. H. Egan, election officer,	1.80	
Geo. S. Drake, election officer,	1.80	
Josiah A. Perkins, constable,	23.88	
Geo. M. Pratt, treasurer and collector,	200.00	
Martha K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	10.00	\$924.46
Overdrawn,		<u>24.46</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$4,000.00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved by Road Commissioners,	4,199.85
Overdrawn,	<u>\$199.85</u>

STATE AID.

George N. Blanchard,	\$108.00
Charles E. Churchill,	72.00
William T. Britton,	42.00
William E. Cole,	48.00
William Crockett,	48.00
Amount carried forward,	<u>\$318.00</u>

Amount brought forward,	\$318.00
Patrick Donahue,	66.00
Lucius Dunbar,	72.00
James P. Gallagher,	72.00
Linus E. Hayward,	84.00
Henry Hiatt,	48.00
William H. Jennings,	72.00
James H. Leonard,	88.00
Charles T. Morse,	30.00
John A. Millett,	60.00
Andrew W. Perkins,	72.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	72.00
Horace N. Weld,	72.00
Mary E. Alger,	48.00
Mary E. Howard,	48.00
Estella E. Howard,	48.00
Elizabeth O. Packard,	48.00
Mary J. Reeves,	48.00
Eliza F. Richardson,	48.00
Thomas Mason,	32.00
William B. Smith,	48.00
William E. Cobbitt,	12.00
Clarissa K. Howland,	12.00
Patrick Dorgan,	60.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,578.00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in treasury Jan. 1st, 1893,	\$2,639.80
Income of school fund,	234.64
Dog fund,	425.58
Police court of Brockton,	15.00
City of New Bedford,	72.00
Additional tax of 1892,	2.00
Auctioneer's licenses,	8.00
Borrowed of Frank Dunbar, four notes,	4,000.00
Received from state, for Supt. of Schools,	142.65
Received tax bills for 1893,	15,414.23
Received from estate of Wm. A. Linnehan,	6.00
Corporation tax,	648.16
National bank tax,	608.55
Military aid,	12.00
State aid,	1,545.00
Support of state paupers,	23.00
Received Inst. on J. O. Copeland tax,	12.10
Received for damages at north school-house,	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$25,818.71

EXPENDITURES.

Frank Dunbar, five notes and int.	5,190.42
County tax,	1,517.03
State tax,	1,225.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$7,932.45

Amount brought forward,	\$7,932.45
State aid.	1,578.00
Schools,	4,090 69
School repairs,	387.07
School supplies,	191.74
School superintendent,	249.96
Town officers,	924.46
Incidentals,	643.55
Abatement,	92.19
Library,	414.20
Lectures,	100.00
Memorial,	100.00
Poor out of the house,	1,021.07
Almshouse,	1,177.30
Highways and sidewalks,	4,199.85
Cash and uncollected taxes Jan. 1, 1894,	2,716.18
	<hr/>
	\$25,818.71

Condition of Treasury January 1, 1894,

Cash on hand,	1,486.31
Uncollected taxes for 1892,	52.97
Uncollected taxes for 1893,	1,176.90
	<hr/>
	2,716.18

In obedience to the instructions of the town, the undersigned have examined the accounts of all town officers for the year ending December 31, 1893. We find all orders drawn by the Selectmen properly vouched for by receipted bills.

HORACE W. HOWARD, } *Auditors.*
CHARLES E. TISDALE. }

NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

William H. Bosworth,	J. S. Jones,
George Burk,	Warren C. Kinney,
Charles H. Caldwell,	George H. Knapp,
Charles E. Churchill	Arthur C. Peckham,
Frank Copeland,	Seba H. Marshall,
Bradford Copeland,	Herbert Packard,
Curtis Eddy,	Japhet B. Packard,
Charles H. Egan,	Joseph E. Ryder,
Frank P. Hatch,	William F. Ryder,
Linus E. Hayward,	Charles E. Tisdale,
Horace W. Howard,	Joseph Vosmus,
George W. Howard,	George A. Vosmus,
George C. Howard,	E. B. Wilbur,
Jonas Hartwell,	Charles T. Williams,
Julius Hayward,	Hiram E. Weston,
Fred J. Hambly,	Lucius Dunbar.

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1893.

Albert L. Alger,	S. Ellis Ryder,
Francis E. Howard,	Myron Packard,
Elihu Leonard.	

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE.

For support of poor,	\$1,500.00
support of schools,	3,700.00
school repairs and supplies,	500.00

For highways and sidewalks,	3,000.00
Town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
public lectures,	100.00
memorial service,	100.00
superintendent of schools,	250.00

The next annual meeting will be held on Monday the fifth day of March.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	}	<i>Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,		
SAMUEL G. COPELAND.		

REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

The Road Commissioners have paid or approved bills to the following named persons.

Mace Tisdale,	\$ 1.05
E. A. Cole,	18.33
Wm. Wixon,	2.05
Henry Doucette,	2.55
Owen Conlon,	3.50
W. F. Smith,	13.88
A. D. Leonard,	2.00
Hatch & Carey,	3.00
John Doucette,	223.50
Michael King,	135.45
Geo. Stone,	18.98
Chas. Brown,	81.74
Patrick Keenan,	38.00
Daniel Sullivan,	10.00
Estate of J. Q. Hartwell,	10.20
John White,	66.65
L. E. & E. Copeland,	14.25
E. A. Godfrey,	30.55
Thos. Hennessey,	63.52
Horace W. Howard,	31.50
Horace Bartlett,	94.08
L. E. Hayward,	12.90
W. K. Dickerson,	14.50
Warren R. Keith,	52.80
Prescott T. Snell,	115.30
August Windburg,	10.00
Geo. Burke,	28.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,098.28

Amount brought forward,	1,098.28
Estate of P. O'Connor,	67.50
Chas. Simono,	12.00
Clinton P. Howard,	27.25
Erland Thayer,	12.67
Chas. Howard,	10.22
Michael McCarthy,	32.00
Peter Keenan,	2.00
R. C. Bennett,	25.50
S. G. Copeland,	12.00
Bradford Copeland,	14.25
Elihu Leonard,	6.00
Hugh Gormley,	71.77
Chas. H. Fuller,	117.88
E. B. Wilbur,	104.00
Jas. J. Gilligan,	16.47
W. F. Ryder,	252.19
John Luddy,	149.99
Wm. Gorman,	135.27
Terrence Keenan,	34.00
Geo. W. Howard,	131.50
A. L. Alger,	96.60
Jas. McAnagh,	62.00
Jas. Keenan,	107.37
Geo. Hopkins,	434.00
Chas. E. Leonard,	4.00
Lester P. Ripley,	1.20
Channing F. Dunbar,	3.00
Thos. Dunn,	3.10
Jos. E. Ryder,	10.80
Chas. A. Crocker,	23.25
Andrew Monson,	53.64
Edgar Billings,	9.65
Julius L. Haywood,	85.00
Amount carried forward,	<u>\$3,226.35</u>

Amount brought forward,	\$3,226.35
W. C. Kinney,	29.20
Davis Copeland,	10 20
Jos. C. Howard,	295.93
Mary & Sarah Dunbar,	17.25
Charles H. Egan,	15.83
A. W. Perkins,	1.10
W. H. Bosworth,	5.00
L. H. Adams,	5.75
Isam Mitchel,	9.29
J. Vosmus,	12.00
Charles E. Macomber,	5.00
W. H. Lindsey,	6.00
Charles E. Vosmus,	10.00
Waldo Bros.	78.76
N. Y. N. H. & H. R. R. Co.	3.12
John J. Jerome,	7.20
Ames Plow Co.	56.00
L. A. Flagg,	230.47
James C. Swan.	5.50
C. W. Copeland,	11.50
G. R. Drake,	.40
Charles E. Brown,	2.00
Mary P. & Sarah H. Dunbar, gravel hill,	156.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,199.85
Appropriation, \$4,000.00	4,000.00
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$199.85
The Commissioners have on hand,	
1 Road Machine,	\$100.00
6 Snow Plows,	75.00
1 Road Plow,	16.00
Drain Pipe,	12.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$203.00

Amonnt brought forward,	\$203.00
Posts,	5.00
Tools,	11.00
	<hr/>
	\$219.00

We recommend the town to appropriate the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars for the repairs of roads, sidewalks and bridges,

WILLIAM F. RYDER,	}	<i>Road Commissioners.</i>
L. A. FLAGG,		
JOS. C. HOWARD.		

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

*Marriages registered in West Bridgewater
in the year 1893.*

- Jan. 16. Jose Cabral and Julia Augustia Andrada both of West Bridgewater.
 26. John A. Norman and Dora Hogue both of West Bridgewater.
- Feb. 9. Zephania A. Perry of East Dennis and Nellie A. West of West Bridgewater.
 15. Molbry A. Ripley and Annie E. Monk both of West Bridgewater.
- Mar. 28. William J. Cairns and Ermand A. Perkins both of West Bridgewater.
- Apr. 5. John Ahearn of West Bridgewater and Rosanna Hagan of Bridgewater.
 22. Charles F. Allen of Brockton and Maria O'Brien of West Bridgewater.
- May 17. Joseph Alger and Lucinda Elizabeth Wilde both of West Bridgewater.
- July 1. Eugene A. Burns, Jr. of Shrewsbury and Lizzie M. Howard of West Bridgewater.
 1. James M. Hemenway and Laura M. Hatch both of West Bridgewater.
- Aug. 17. George F. Ryder of West Bridgewater and Grace M. Adams of East Bridgewater.
- Sept. 6. William H. M. Clary of South Hanover and Mary B. Richards of West Bridgewater.
 16. Lionel H. Adams of West Bridgewater and Lilian L. Backus of Brockton.
 16. Charles L. Garfield of Brockton and Roxie J. Howard of West Bridgewater.

- Oct. 4. Herbert A. Lothrop of West Bridgewater and
Jennie W McLeod of Brockton.
4. Samuel J. Kelly of Brockton and Ellen C.
Cashon of West Bridgewater.
5. George E. Baker of West Bridgewater and Ella
C. Alden of Brockton.
5. George Wallace McDonald of West Bridgewater
and Fanny G. Dunbar of Brockton.
- Nov. 22. Charles W. Stillman and Olive B. Shaw both of
West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 25. Fred A. Alger and Mabelle P. Wilde both of
West Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1893.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1888.			
March 16	Martin Lyman Alger.....	Male.....	Nathan J. Alger and Sophronia Graves.
1890.			
September 15	Ann O'Fallon.....	Female.....	Michael O'Fallon and Ellen J. Duane.
1892.			
November 12	Sidnie Vera Kingman.....	".....	Josiah O. Kingman and Margaret E. Emerson.
1893.			
January 1	Alan Kendrick.....	Male.....	Fred. P. Kendrick and Mary E. Page.
" 3	Charles Torney.....	".....	Patrick F. Torney and Elizabeth Heaphy.
" 5	Horace R. Snell.....	".....	Prescott T. Snell and Flora M. Vosnus.
February 11	Harry Ward Richards.....	".....	John W. Richards and Mary Parker.
March 2	Olive Miriam Perkins.....	Female.....	Josiah A. Perkins and Sarah W. Lapham.
" 6	—.....	".....	William Murphy and Maggie Carroll.
29	Napoleon Belmore.....	Male.....	Octave Belmoie and Elise Cadeau
April 2	Edward Buckley.....	".....	Cornelius Buckley and Bridget T. Hennessy.
7	James McAnagh.....	".....	James McAnagh and Abbie M. Smith.
16	Elveria Lendh.....	Female.....	Charles W. Lendh and Freida Jonson.
1	Horace Bernard Conlon.....	Male.....	Daniel Conlon and Jane A. W. Osborne.
4	Edward Robert O'Fallon.....	".....	Michael O'Fallon and Ellen J. Duane.
15	Ethel Virginia Cleaves.....	Female.....	Clinton B. Cleaves and Lizzie B. Blaney.
15	Frances Robbins.....	".....	John D. Robbins and Mary K. Doucette.
16	Elton Turner Hayward.....	Male.....	Everett Hayward and Flora F. Keene.
26	Edward Patrick McAnagh.....	".....	Edward H. McAnagh and Mary J. Hayes.
15	Frans Edwin Monson.....	".....	Andrew Monson and Ida Sophie Nelson.
27	John O'Neil.....	".....	Stephen O'Neil and Margaret A. Conneys.
23	Frank Bailey Drake.....	".....	George S. Drake and Abbie S. Duckworth.
31	Charles Edgar Fowler.....	".....	Willie A. Fowler and Abbie J. Dickerson.
October 1	Justin Sylvester Penprae.....	".....	William Penprae and Catherine Shaw.
2	Frances Marion Keith.....	Female.....	Edward H. Keith and Victorine S. Dow.
22	Agnes Gertrude Coughlin.....	".....	Michael G. Coughlin and Nora McGrath.
November 2	Nellie Ruth Hopkins.....	".....	George G. Hopkins and Etta R. Brown.
" 11	Ruth Lora Alger.....	".....	Nathan J. Alger and Sophronia Graves.
December 29	Elton M. Horton.....	Male.....	George E. Horton and Mary F. Goddet.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1893.

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSES OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1891.							
Nov. 24	Bridget Clifford.....	53			Pneumonia.....	Ireland.....	William Coughlan and Alice Lyons.
1892.							
June 23	Marshall Wilbar.....	48	4	14	Paresis.....	W. Bridgewater.	George Wilbar and Fidelia Howard.
1893.							
Feb. 1	Frank P. Johnson.....	42	0	17	Pneumonia Phthisis...	Brocton.....	Chas. Johnson and Mary A. Dunbar.
" 18	Catherine F. Fay.....	20	8	27	Phthisis Pulmonalis...	W. Bridgewater.	Philip Fay and Mary McGrath.
" 27	Charles Atwell.....	54	9	13	Pneumonia.....	Marsfield.....	Seth Atwell and Emily Delano.
March 7	Sarah J. Trott.....	67	2	17	Dropsy.....	Maine.....	Lemuel Tucker and Almira Faunce.
" 22	Harold H. Crocker.....	3	1	21	Scarlatina & Laryngitis	W. Bridgewater.	Edward H. Crocker and Clara D. Alger.
" 23	Josiah Q. Hartwell.....	70	0	16	Apoplexy.....	".....	Jonas Hartwell and Sally Howard.
" 24	Eliza C. Butman.....	48	0	4	Cancer & Heart Failure	Porter, Me.....	John French and Belinda Trefon.
April 3	Phidelia A. Packard.....	60	5	3	Heart Failure.....	Farmington, Me.	Aaron Higgins (mother's name unknown)
" 6	Joseph Ring.....	76	9	7	Mitral Insufficiency...	Ireland.....	John Ring and Catherine Reardon.
" 16	Emoline Leonard.....	75	8	7	Paralysis.....	E. Bridgewater.	Ruel Lincoln and Eunice Willis.
" 18	Susanna Holmes.....	81	10	17	Pneumonia.....	Easton.....	David Wade and Chloe Drake.
" 26	Ripley A. Ireland.....	61	4	19	Gangrene of Foot.....	Easton, Me.....	Josiah Morse and Silence Wade.
May 8	Charles Thomas Morse.....	56	4	1	Consumption.....	Easton.....	Conrad Ericsson and Mary P. Bosworth.
" 17	Alton G. Erickson.....	22	0	8	Capillary Bronchitis...	W. Bridgewater.	Japheth Packard & Lucretia P. Dunbar.
" 20	Ernest L. Packard.....	32	6	8	Phthisis.....	E. Bridgewater.	William Howe and Olive A. Bell.
" 26	William F. Smith.....	20	9	8	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	W. Bridgewater.	Chas. W. Raymond and Elveritta Cook.
" 29	Alice L. Raymond.....	20	1	16	Diphtheritic Croup.....	Brocton.....	Josiah Perkins and Abigail Holmes.
June 10	Benjamin Perkins.....	66	3	13	Apoplexy.....	Brocton.....	Eli Wheeler and Lydia Carter.
" 14	Eli Wheeler.....	70	10	9	Rheumatism & Heart Dis.	Hillsboro, N. H.	Nathan Fuller and Faith Soule.
" 30	Alfred Fuller.....	76	2	9	Chronic Bronchitis...	Halifax.....	George Smith and Pamela Fields.
July 12	Lydia E. Crosby.....	83	4	12	Old Age.....	Norton.....	Stephen O'Neil and Maggie Conneys.
Aug. 3	John C'Neil.....	83	4	6	Congenital Malformat'n	W. Bridgewater.	Francis F. Lothrop and Mary E. Stowe.
" 18	William L. Lothrop.....	25	6	24	Congenital New Growth	Easton.....	Fosser J. Vosmus and Sarah Moore.
Sept. 10	Carrie Lindsey.....	42	10	—	Chronic Nephritis.....	Maine.....	John Dewyer and Catherine Stackpole.
Sept. 30	Julia A. Dewyer.....	38	7	4	Nervous Prostration...	W. Bridgewater.	Pardon Copeland and Alice Ames.
Oct. 17	Charles W. Copeland.....	42	11	26	Gunshot Wound.....	".....	Joseph R. Osborne and Emily Wood.
" 30	Jane A. W. Conlon.....	30	2	26	Consumption.....	E. Bridgewater.	William Blake and Sarah Chandler.
Nov. 9	Phebe Manley.....	91	5	18	Senile Decay.....	Durham, Me.....	Edw. H. McNaugh and Mary J. Hayes.
" 3	Edward P. McNaugh.....	91	4	8	Cholera Infantum.....	W. Bridgewater.	Jacob Vosmus and Mary Goss.
Dec. 5	Foster J. Vosmus.....	62	5	26	Mitral Insufficiency...	Auburn, Me.....	Daniel Dorgan and Nellie Savage.
" 27	Patrick Dorgan.....	63	9	15	Pneumonia.....	Ireland.....	

TOWN MEETING,

Plymouth ss.:

To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the fifth day of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committes, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question: "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the Selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will raise one hundred dollars for public lectures.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 9. To see if the town will order the road commissioners to build a sidewalk on South Main street, and appropriate money for the same. (By request.)

ART. 10. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

REPORT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The total number of volumes in the library Dec. 31, 1893. was 4,057, 244 having been added during the previous year.

The books loaned for the year were divided amongst the several classes as follows, viz:—

Agriculture,	4
Art,	14
Biography,	162
Fiction,	2,171
General Literature,	258
History,	117
Humorous Works,	42
Juvenile Works,	1,004
Magazines,	818
Poetry,	175
Works of Reference,	12
Religion and Theology,	6
Science,	73
Travels,	95
Public Documents,	2
	<hr/>
	4,953

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

Received from Town Treasurer, May, 1892,	\$37.16
“ “ “ 1893,	414.20
“ “ fines, sales of catalogues, cards, etc.,	14.49
	<hr/>
	\$465.85

Expenditures.

Magazines for 1892,	37.16
Book Buyer,	1.00
Life of James G. Blaine,	2.50
Magazines for 1893,	36.52
Librarian's Salary,	104.36
Estes & Lauriat,	214.82
Stationery, Postage, Oil, Express, ect.,	8.32
Brockton Book Bindery,	35.75
F. W. Kingman, work on catalogue,	22.75
Social and Religious Life in Orient,	1.15
Balance cash on hand,	1.52
	<hr/>
	\$465.85

The library trustees received from Hosea Kingman, Esq., April 29, 1893, a check for \$670.97, that sum being a bequest under the will of the late Cornelia Alger, and was paid by him as executor. Mrs. Julia A. Drury, who was entitled to a life interest in this sum, very kindly waived the same, and directed that it be paid to the library at once.

The library trustees gratefully acknowledge this characteristic generosity on the part of Mrs. Drury. The amount has been deposited in the East Bridgewater Savings Bank by the trustees.

The financial standing of the library was last reported in the annual report for 1887, by which it appears that the amount due the library from the town, was on Jan. 31, 1887 :—

	\$459.21
Drawn from the Treasury to Jan. 31, 1888,	238.81
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	\$220.40
Interest on balance one year at 5 per cent.,	11.02
Dog tax, 1887.	294.79
	<hr/>
Balance due library Jan. 31, 1888,	\$526.21

Balance due library Jan. 31, 1888,	\$526.21
Drawn from the Treasury to Jan. 31, 1889,	270.58
Balance unexpended,	<u>\$255.63</u>
Interest on balance one year at 5 per cent.,	12.78
Dog tax, 1888,	300.71
Balance due library Jan. 31, 1889,	<u>\$569.12</u>
Drawn from Treasury to Jan. 31, 1890,	341.57
Balance unexpended,	<u>\$227.55</u>
Interest on balance one year at 5 per cent.,	11.37
Dog tax, 1889,	342.33
Balance due library Jan. 31, 1890,	<u>\$581.25</u>
Drawn from Treasury to Jan. 31, 1891,	351.56
Balance unexpended,	<u>\$229.69</u>
Interest on balance one year at 5 per cent.,	11.48
Dog tax, 1890,	346.58
Balance due library Jan. 31, 1891,	<u>\$587.75</u>
Drawn from Treasury to Jan. 31, 1892,	373.69
Balance unexpended,	<u>\$214.06</u>
Interest on balance one year at 5 per cent.,	10.70
Dog tax, 1891,	346.70
Balance due library Jan. 31, 1892,	<u>\$571.46</u>
Drawn from Treasury to Dec. 31, 1892,	307.89
Balance unexpended,	<u>\$263.57</u>
Interest on balance 11 months at 5 per cent.,	12.08
Dog tax, 1892,	425.58
Balance due library Jan. 1, 1893,	<u>701.23</u>
Drawn from the Treasury to Dec. 31, 1893,	412.20
Balance unexpended,	<u>\$289.03</u>

Balance unexpended,	\$289.03
Interest on balance one year at 5 per cent.,	14.45

Balance due library Jan. 1, 1894,	\$303.48
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The amount of dog tax for 1893 has not been reported, and is to be added to the balance Jan. 1, 1894,

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees of the Public Library,

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1893 the following were members of the committee :

Mrs. A. S. LeLACHEUR and B. PERKINS for three years.
J. A. SHORES and Mrs. M. K. CROSBY for two years.
G. C. HOWARD and W. H. BOSWORTH for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows :

J. A. SHORES, *Chairman*.
M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.
B. PERKINS and G. C. HOWARD, *Committee on Repairs*.
B. PERKINS and G. C. HOWARD, *Truant Officers*,

The schools were assigned as follows :

North and North Centre to Mr. Perkins.
Cochesett to Mr. Howard.
Centre to Mrs. LeLacheur.
South to Mr. Shores.
East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.
Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

To J. A. Shores, A. S. LeLacheur and M. K. Crosby was assigned the examination of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby, was appointed agent for school supplies.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS.

Paid Miss R. L. MacDonald,	36 weeks,	\$360 00
Miss E. E. Wilson,	36 "	324 00
Miss E. A. Morrow,	36 "	411 00
Miss I. S. Wood,	36 "	360 00
Miss W. A. Holmes,	36 "	360 00
Miss E. V. Wadsworth,	21 "	210 00
Miss M. J. Dunbar,	15 "	150 00
Miss M. Alden,	21 "	210 00
Miss A. Dunn,	14 "	112 00
Miss M. A. Dewyre,	32½ "	325 00
Miss L. A. Burke,	35½ "	319 00
Miss M. C. Keith,	36 "	360 00
Miss A. A. Barrows, (music)		50 00
Mrs. A. L. Small, (music)		39 00
Conveyance of Music Teacher.		25.75
		<hr/>
		\$3,616.25

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem, (\$7 for 1892),	\$19 00
Cochesett,	26 08
Centre,	24 00
South,	12 00
East,	12 00
Matfield,	12 00
North,	12 00
North Centre,	12 00
	<hr/>
	\$129 08

FUEL.

Paid S. G. Copeland, 2 cords oak wood,	\$10 00
C. P. Howard, 1 cord pine, 1 cord hard and labor,	11 00
L. E. & E. Copeland, 3 cords hard and labor,	18 00
E. T. Snell, 4 cords hard, 4½ cords pine,	38 00
J. E. Ryder, 7 cords hard, 4 cords pine,	51 00
“ “ 1 cord maple and labor,	5 50
G. C. Howard, 6 cords hard, 1 cord pine and labor,	48 00
W. Penpraese, labor on wood,	19 50
O. Fuller, labor on wood,	75
C. Keene, labor on wood,	15 00
for labor on wood at East and Matfield,	3 80
O. King, labor on wood,	11 20
M. McCarty, labor on wood,	7 00
for labor on wood at Jerusalem,	4 85
C. E. Leonard, 1 cord pine wood,	4 00
G. W. Alger, 2 tons egg coal,	14 50
L. A. Flagg, 6000 lbs. egg coal,	20 25
	<hr/>
	\$282 35

CHARTS AND TUITION.

Paid for 7 Munroe's Reading Charts,	\$42 00
“ “ 1 Complete Chart,	15 00
Easton for tuition, one pupil,	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$63 00

Expenditures.

Teachers' wages,	\$3,616 25
Fuel,	282 35
Janitors,	129 08
Charts and tuition,	63 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,090 68

Receipts.

Town grant,	\$4,150 00
Income of Mass. School Fund,	234 64
On account of District Supervision,	142 65
	<hr/>
	\$4,527 29

REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid Minot S. Curtis, 2 gallons liquid slating,	\$ 8 50
G. H. Stone, labor on black boards,	4 00
J. H. Fairbanks, stove for Centre primary,	11 70
“ “ team and labor-on stoves,	24 88
“ “ stock,	3 03
G. P. Hilstrum, 31 hours labor at Cochesett,	10 85
“ “ 166 lbs. galvanized iron,	24 90
“ “ other material,	6 40
C. P. Howard, cedar posts and lumber for fence	40.32
L. A. Flagg, stock for fence, and labor,	7 50
W. J. Cairnes, labor on fence 5 days,	15 00
“ “ stock,	5 57
W. Penpraese, whitewashing fence,	7 50
Z. A. Jenkins, 7 m. shingles,	19 25
I. Charlton, labor at South school house,	17 49
G. Wilbur, labor and stock,	16 60
E. E. Howard, mason work and stock,	9 50
F. W. Howard, labor and stock,	4 72
C. Eddy, labor and stock,	3 40
C. A. Goodall, printing cards and stock,	4 87
Ginn & Co., 6 music charts,	50 00
Small supplies,	5 21
Express and postage,	7 50
Incidentals for school report cards, etc.,	8 31
D. W. Gardner, for service as constable,	3 00

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	8 95
Cochesett,	11 60
South,	9 27
Centre,	10 66
East,	8 02
Matfield,	3 50
North and North Centre,	15 07
<hr/>	
Whole amount of repairs,	\$387 07
Town grant,	\$300 00
For damages at North school,	10 00
<hr/>	
	\$310 00

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid Prang Educational Co., drawing supplies,	\$22 86
Leach, Shewell & Co., language lessons,	7 50
American Book Co., copy-books and spelling blanks,	18 52
Ginn & Co., readers and music books,	6 29
Thompson, Brown & Co., arithmetics,	35 47
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., readers,	9 19
University Pub. Co., readers,	24 00
J. L. Hammett, paper, pencils and clay,	3 43
Boston School Supply Co., readers,	95
The Thorp & Martin Mfg. Co., paper, pens, pen- cils, composition books and other supplies,	62 63
Postage,	90
<hr/>	
	\$191 74

New Supplies on hand Dec. 31, 1893.

Readers, grammars, histories and arithmetics,	\$19 56
Copy, drawing and exercise books,	13 79
Paper, pens, pencils, slates, crayons etc.	4 45
<hr/>	
	\$37 80

Inventory of stock on hand Jan. 1, 1893.	\$31 88
Amount drawn from town treasury,	191 74
	<hr/>
	\$223 62
Inventory of new stock on hand Dec. 31, 1893,	\$37 80
Supplies furnished schools,	185 82
	<hr/>
	\$223 62

The average membership in the schools for the year has been 243.31, and the cost of supplies furnished by the town has been \$185.82 or 76 cents per scholar.

The school census for May 1, 1891, gave 282 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these 223 were in the common schools, 6 in the Howard school, 4 taught at home, 8 (all above 14 years) at work, 3 incompetent, 6 sick, 28 young and not yet in school, and 4 out for other reasons.

Professor Willard has furnished the following High School statistics:

Number admitted in Sept. 1893,	8
Number attending Fall term,	25
Number of different pupils for the year,	33
Percentage of attendance for Fall term,	97.27

CALENDAR FOR 1894.

WINTER TERM, Jan. 8 to March 23, 1894. 11 weeks.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 9 to June 15. 10 weeks.

Vacation, 12 weeks.

FALL TERM, Sept. 10 to Dec. 21. 15 weeks.

Recess. Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

WINTER TERM. 1895, Jan. 7th.

Changes in this will be made to meet special needs in any school.

We insert changes made by the Legislature of 1892 in the laws relating to district supervision of schools:—

CHAPTER 200, SECTION 2.

* * * * "When such a union has been effected it shall not be dissolved because any one of the towns shall have increased its valuation so that it exceeds two million five hundred thousand dollars, nor because the number of schools shall have increased beyond the number of fifty or decreased below the number of twenty-five, nor, for any reason, for the period of three years from the date of the formation of such union, except by vote of a majority of the towns constituting the union."

SECT. 3. * * * * "and the remaining five hundred dollars shall be apportioned and distributed on the basis of the amount appropriated and expended for a superintendent in the towns forming such district for the year next preceding, which amount shall be paid for the salaries of teachers employed in the public schools within such district."

Section 2 provides for changes in the Union District that may be desired. The present basis of distribution as given in Section 3 will make our share one-third of the five hundred dollars. Last year our town received from the State for district supervision \$142.65, which reduces the actual cost of supervision to \$107.35.

The care our schools are receiving under the Union District system is very satisfactory, and this is due largely to the energy and enthusiastic devotion of our superintendent, R. D. McKeen.

We commend to your careful consideration his report, and ask for your active interest in all efforts to improve our public schools.

The citizens of a town do not lessen their individual responsibility for the character and progress of their schools by placing them in charge of a good superintendent, and his labors will be productive of the best results when supported by the co-operation of the whole community.

The success that has attended our trial of special instruction in music encourages us to recommend the continued em-

ployment of a trained teacher to direct this work in our schools.

It is necessary to ask for a small amount extra for school supplies to meet the expense of changes in histories and reading books.

The general repair account includes various incidental expenses, such as printing school report cards, expressage on supplies, etc.

The bill for music charts will be found in this account, but the amount paid will be forthcoming when we receive our share of the Mass. School Fund for 1893—one-fourth of which can be used for charts or apparatus.

Unforeseen expenses are liable to occur in the department of repairs.

To remedy a defect in the new heating apparatus at the Cohasset grammar school building it was necessary to exceed the appropriation for repairs, but the *total* of the school expenses is considerably less than our estimates for the year.

We recommend for this year the following appropriations:

For the support of schools,	\$3,700.00
For repairs and incidentals,	300.00
For text-books and supplies,	200.00

At the annual meeting two members of the committee should be elected for three years, and also one for two years in place of Mr. B. Perkins, by whose death the School Board lost a faithful and efficient member.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. SHORES,	} <i>School Committee.</i>
M. K. CROSBY,	
A. S. LELACHEUR,	
W. H. BOSWORTH,	
G. C. HOWARD,	

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Jan 11th, 1894.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of West Bridgewater :

I hereby present my second annual report of the schools of the town of West Bridgewater for the year ending, Dec. 30, 1893.

Population of West Bridgewater, (U.S.census,1890,) 1,917

Number of schools, 10

Number of different teachers employed for the year
including music teachers, 14

Number of teachers required, 11

Number of schools having different teachers, 2

Number of children in town between the ages of 5
and 15 years as shown by the school census
taken May, 1893, 282

Taken May, 1892, 279

Number receiving employment tickets during the year, 5

Number of different pupils enrolled on school registers, 313

Greatest number enrolled in any school, (Matfield,) 45

Smallest " " " " (East,) 23

Average membership for the year : 243.31

Cochesett Gram., 21.35 ; Cochesett Primary, 27.78

Centre Gram., 26.5 ; Centre Prim'y, 26.23, South, 23.46 ;

East, 19.5 ; Matfield, 30.33, N. Centre, 24.18 ; North, 20.7

Jerusalem, 26.23.

Average membership per room, 34.33

Average attendance, 219.93

Cochesett Grammar, 20.11 ; Cochesett Prim'y, 24.84 ;

Centre Gram., 25.14 ; Cen. Prim., 20.51 ; South, 19.45 ;

East, 18.3 ; Matfield, 27.75, North Centre, 21.47 ;

North, 19.2 ; Jerusalem, 23.16.

Per cent. of average attendance, .90+

Average attendance,	21.99
Number of children attending over 15 years of age,	6
“ “ “ under 5 “ “	1

In submitting this report, I am glad to avail myself of this opportunity, to express again, to the citizens, my grateful appreciation of the uniform courtesy and valuable assistance given me in the discharge of my duties.

No school committee within my experience has done more to make the position of Superintendent agreeable and successful than the School Board of West Bridge-water.

The work of this year has been so similar in character to that of last year that attempts to particularize would seem but a repetition of much of the report of 1892. Omitting, therefore, reference to details, I purpose merely to outline a report of those features in the work of the schools peculiar to the year just closed, together with a few suggestions for the coming year. It must not be inferred from such omissions, that any less effort has been exerted, or a lack of interest has been shown by teachers or pupils, or anything in the ordinary channels of school work has been suffered to decline. On the contrary, the methods of instruction have been more uniform, the attendance has been better (except in the Matfield school where the scarlet fever so seriously interfered), and the teachers, too, of whom I am pleased to speak in terms of commendation, have shown a ready disposition to accept suggestions from the Superintendent, even when, as in most cases, they were backed by no pretence of authority.

It is universally recognized that advanced students cannot be skilfully taught in Physics and Chemistry without a well equipped laboratory, and it is equally true that younger pupils should be supplied with a laboratory which corresponds to *their* class of instruction. Tell a child that four gills make a pint and that two pints make a quart

and he has little conception of the true meaning. He has seldom seen a gill or a pint measure, and therefore has little idea of their size. *Give* him a gill measure, and ask him to find out how many gill measures it takes to fill a pint measure, or a pint measure and ask him to find out how many such measures it takes to fill a quart measure, and he will be more likely to remember it. I, therefore, commend to your consideration, the purchase of sets of dry and liquid measures for the public schools of this town.

Friday afternoon exercises in the Grammar schools could be made brighter and more interesting by being made to stand in closer relation to current topics from the newspapers and periodicals. I would suggest the following:—That the school committee furnish material for a reading table in the Grammar schools of this town. At a mere nominal expense, a few of the best papers and periodicals could be supplied, to which the pupils might have access after their lessons are learned. At the close of every week, or perhaps every day, a short time could be profitably spent in reviewing and discussing what has been read of interest.

This plan has been very successfully followed in East Bridgewater for the past year.

TRANSFER OF PUPILS.

More satisfactory work has been done in the East and Matfield schools in consequence of the transferring of pupils of the grammar grade to the Centre grammar school. Our grammar schools would not be crowded if all the pupils of the grammar grade in town were sent to the grammar schools. It seems to me that with a little extra effort on the part of parents, this could be accomplished and all would then receive *alike* the benefits of a graded system.

Certainly a school of eight grades, with from one pupil to four in a grade cannot be as profitable as another of half the number of grades with double the number in a grade. Why not take advantage of the precedent established by the few who are now so satisfactorily testing it?

The annexation of the "North End" of the town to Brockton takes away the North school, together with eleven pupils of the grammar grade, and two of the primary grade from the North Centre school. This leaves but sixteen pupils in the North Centre school—all of the first four grades except one of the seventh grade, who will now attend the grammar school at the centre.

MUSIC.

The satisfaction derived from instruction in vocal music for the year is sufficient to warrant me in saying that money could be judiciously expended for its support for another year. It is no longer an experiment, but let it be a permanent thing.

I think I hazard nothing in saying that the time spent in the music lesson or in the drill is as profitable as that devoted to any other study. Its direct educational value cannot be questioned while its influence on the habits of the children is beneficial in the highest degree.

At the beginning of the spring term we were fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Small of Hudson, Mass., but unfortunate in having to part with them at the close of the same term. Even for the short time in which Mrs. Small had charge of the music here the pupils made rapid progress in the study.

At the beginning of the fall term we were pleased to engage the services of Miss Alice Barrows of Reading. Seemingly there was no break resulting from the change in teachers, Miss Barrows taking up the work where Mrs. Small left it. Miss Barrows comes to us with several

years of successful experience in teaching music in public schools. Her natural adaptation for, and devotion to her work, coupled with the hearty co-operation of the regular teachers can not fail to produce, in due time, the much needed results.

For particulars pertaining to the work in music I refer you to the report of the music teacher :

REPORT OF THE TEACHER OF MUSIC.

Mr. R. D. McKeen, Superintendent of Schools, West Bridgewater, Mass.

Dear Sir.

The work of teaching Music in West Bridgewater was started by Mrs. Small, who supervised the schools for the term ending in June, 1893. A good foundation was laid, upon which we have been building for the past term. My aim has been to take up the work as she left it, and carry it on from that point. As the schools have each received but one lesson in two weeks, it has been difficult to lay out enough work in that one lesson to last till the next visit. I think we shall accomplish more by visiting each school every week and giving a short, sharply defined lesson. This is the plan for the remainder of the year. Of necessity, the work moves slowly, but the pupils seem very apt and willing and have shown a great readiness to do whatever is required.

The two Grammar schools have completed all the work in one part songs and exercises to be found upon the Second Series of Charts. We are now ready for two part singing and as the work upon the Charts is too difficult for schools where Music has not been taught for several years, I advise that we use instead the Common School Song Reader which is especially adapted for such schools, and that we exchange the charts for the First Series of Charts to be used in the Primary rooms.

The Primary and other schools have together pursued nearly the same line of work. Much of the time has been spent upon rote songs, and interval work, thus teaching the use of the voice before much time is given to notation. Nearly all the schools have now

commenced reading music from the Charts, except in the two Primaries, where we have no charts, and have been obliged to work from the board.

I will not make special mention of any school, as the work has been faithfully performed in all. The teachers deserve special commendation, as the results obtained thus far, have been largely due to their careful daily drill. We hope by the end of the year, that we shall have made a long step ahead, and that the people of West Bridgewater will consider Music as an indispensable study in their public schools.

Very truly,

ALICE A. BARROWS.

Teacher of Music.

CHANGES IN TEACHERS.

Our schools have had very little cause to suffer from the changes in teachers, only two having been made during the year. This is a point of which very few towns can boast. Miss Alden of the East school resigned at the close of the spring term, having decided to close her labors in the public schools to accept a better offer in the marriage field. Her position was filled temporarily by Miss Alice Dunn of Quincy. Miss Dunn's faithfulness in her work has won the respect of her pupils and secures her continuance in the school. Just before the schools began in September, word was received from Miss Wadsworth of the Centre grammar school that an attack of *la grippe* prevented her from resuming her labors again for several weeks at least.

Miss Mary J. Dunbar was engaged to fill her position. Miss Dunbar's previous experience in similar schools has been of great service in this school. Her spirit of devotion to her work and the quiet industry of the school are features worthy of notice.

EXAMINATIONS AND PROMOTIONS.

The plan adopted by the Committee to award diplomas to those who satisfactorily complete the Course of Study in the public schools is conducive to good results.

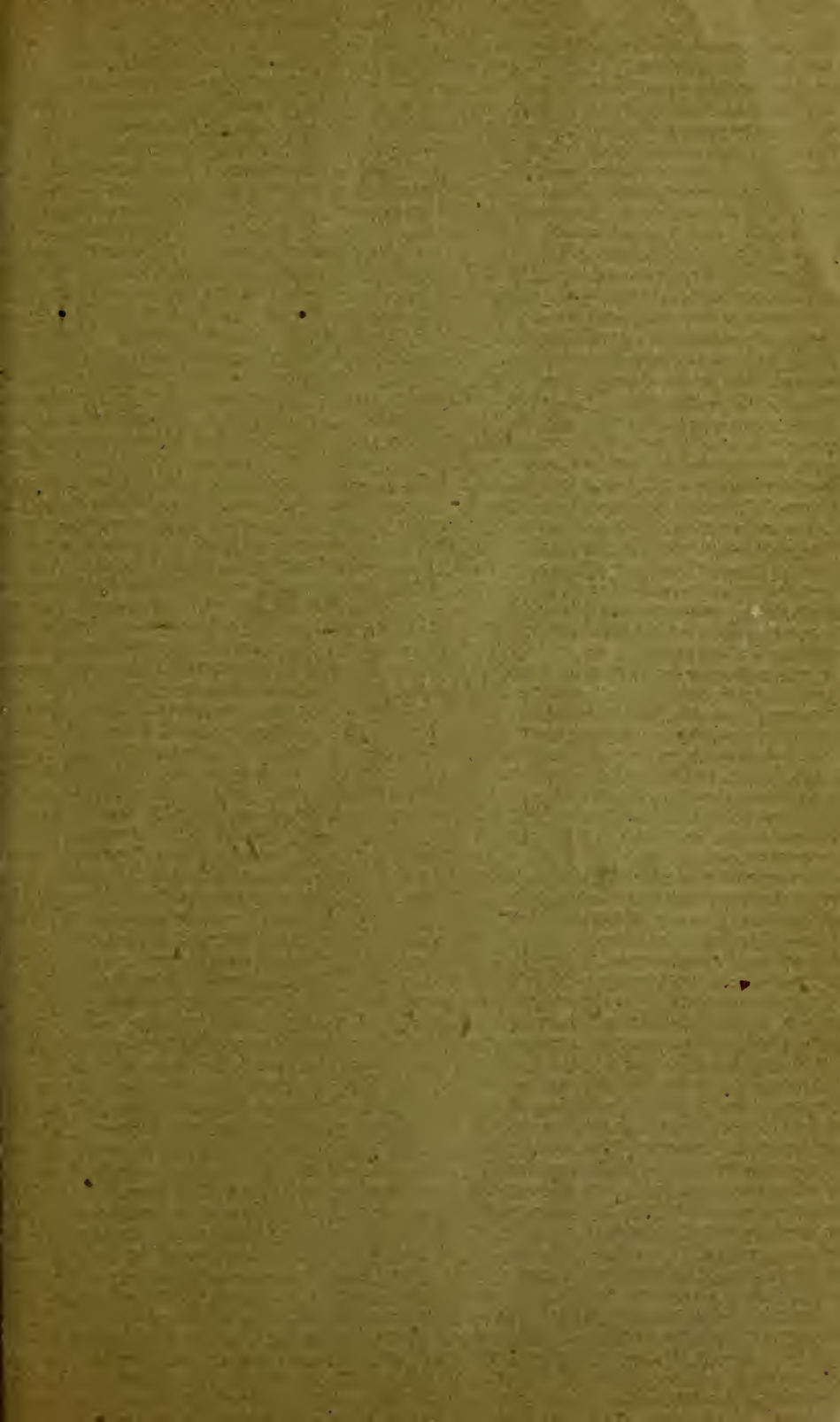
At the close of the summer term, two from the Cochesett grammar, four from the Centre grammar and two from the North Centre School received diplomas and were recommended to Dr. Willard for admission to the Howard High School. A verbal agreement between Dr. Willard and your Superintendent makes it necessary for pupils who wish to be admitted to the High School, to present certificates, signed by the School Board and Superintendent, that the candidates are of good moral character, and that they have satisfactorily completed the Course of Study in the public schools of this town.

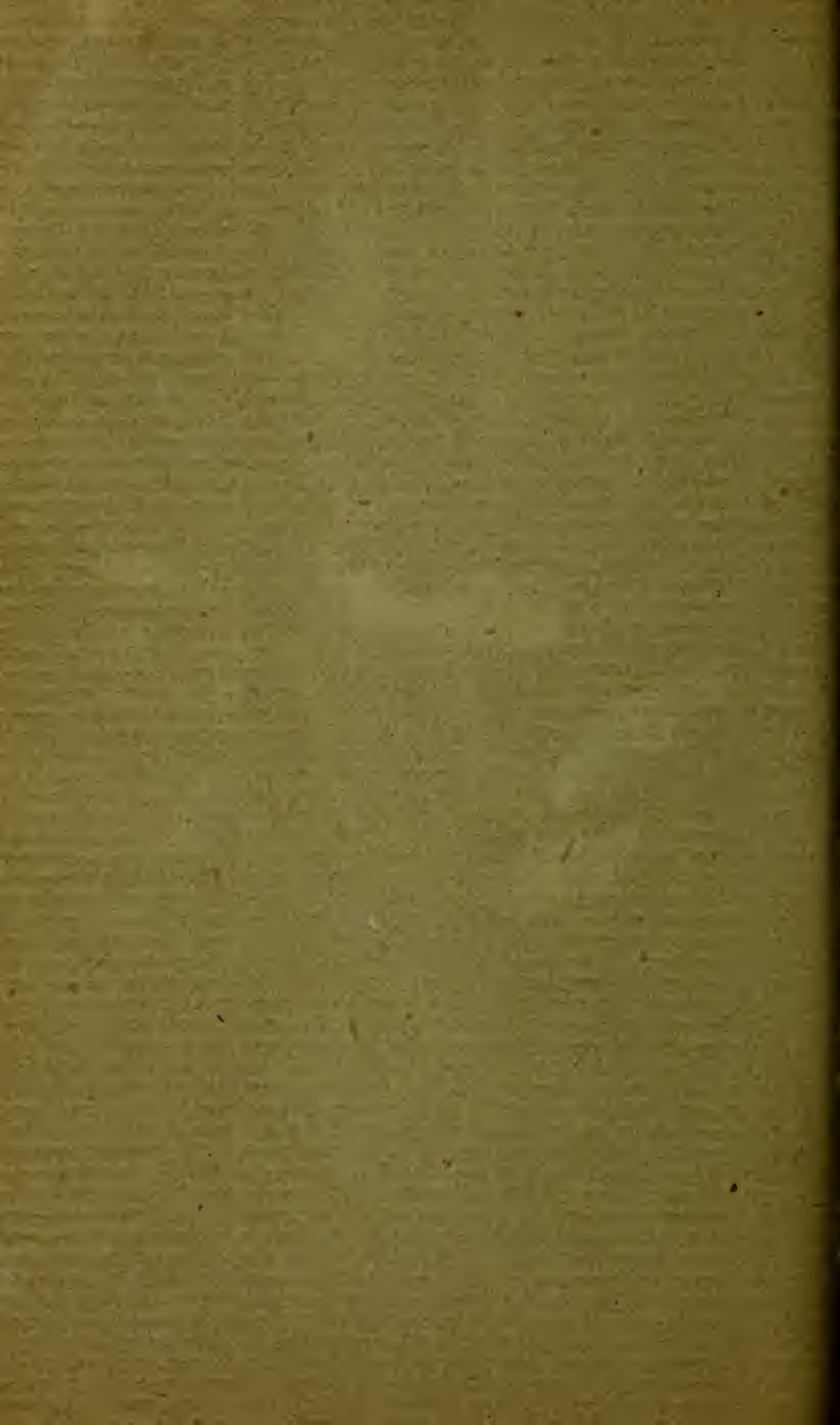
Promotions in *all* the grades are made in June. A public day is given in each school to which the parents are specially invited to listen to oral reviews of the work done for the year. I am pleased to say that promotions do not depend on stated examinations, but the monthly record of each pupil's work, the judgment of a wise teacher and the frequent unannounced written exercises seem a better, fairer, and more impartial way of judging a pupil's fitness for promotion.

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. McKEEN,
Superintendent of Schools.

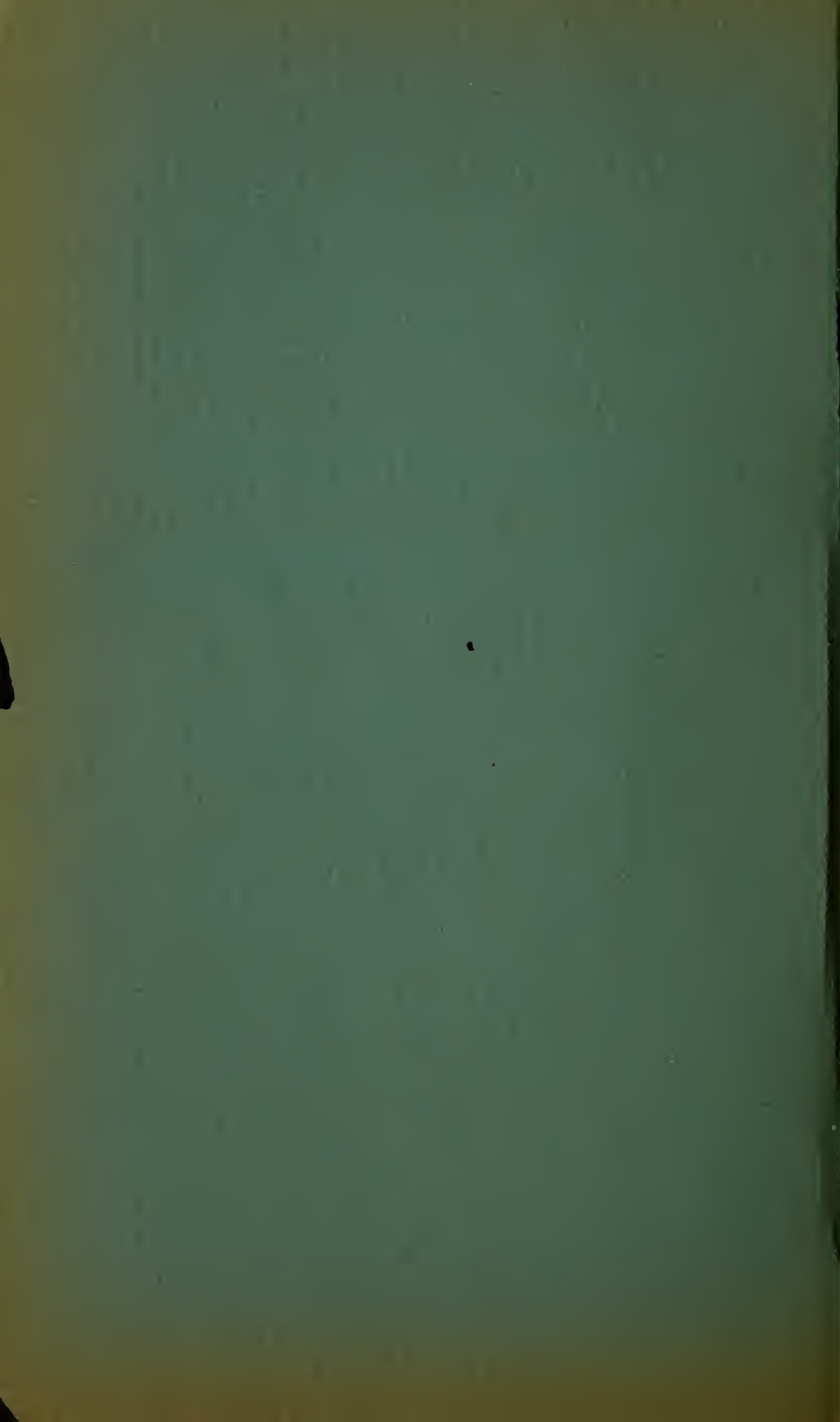
Jan. 1, 1894.





ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
OF
WEST BRIDGEWATER
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1895.

TAUNTON :
J. S. SAMPSON, PRINTER.
1895.



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J. S. SAMPSON, PRINTER.

1895.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1894.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF POOR, AND ASSESSORS.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,

SAMUEL G. COPELAND.

OVERSEER OF THE POOR,

ANNA S. LELACHEUR.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY,

JOSEPH A. SHORES

GEO C. HOWARD,

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,

WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH,

H. M. WILLARD.

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CHARLES R. PACKARD,

MRS. CHARLOTTE A. WILLIAMS,

MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN,

MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

HORACE M. WILLARD,

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

JOSEPH C. HOWARD,

WILLIAM F. RYDER.

LOREN A. FLAGG.

CONSTABLES.

ELLIS R. HOLBROOK,

H. EUGENE WESTON,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

CHARLES H. EGAN.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

FIELD DRIVERS.

HERBERT A. LOTHROP,

URIAH S. COPELAND,

GEORGE W. HOWARD.

FENCE VIEWERS.

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

GEORGE E. HORTON.

MEASURERS OF LUMBER,

ALPHEUS M. TAYLOR,

FRANK H. JONES,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

SAMUEL L. RYDER,

DANIEL B. DAVIS.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

FRANK JONES,

HORACE BARTLETT,

CHAS. R. PACKARD.

JOSEPH E. RYDER,

CLINTON P. HOWARD.

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FOBES,

LUCIUS DUNBAR,

CURTIS EDDY.

AUDITORS.

CHARLES E. TISDALE,

CHARLES T. WILLIAMS.

POUND KEEPER.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town January 1, 1895, is respectfully submitted:

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION,

As Assessed May 1, 1894.

Value of real estate,	\$824,502.00
Value of personal estate,	143,766.00
Total,	<hr/> \$968,268.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$980.00	
County tax,	1517.03	
	<hr/>	\$2,497.03
Town grant,	10,050.00	
Overlay,	468.31	
Subsequent assessments,	4.00	
	<hr/>	\$10,522.31
Total tax,		<hr/> \$13,019.34
Rate of tax, \$12.50 per \$1000.		Poll tax, \$2.00

Number of polls,	450
acres of land,	8,987
dwelling houses,	367
horses,	370
cows,	600
sheep,	30
swine,	110
young stock,	83
fowls,	4084

APPROPRIATIONS,

For support of schools,	\$3,700.00
school supplies and repairs,*	500.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	800.00
incidentals,	600.00
memorial service,	100.00
lectures,	100.00
School Superintendent,	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$11,050.00
Estimated Bank and Corporation Tax,	1,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$10,050.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Value of New Almshouse and wood-house,	\$5,000.00
town farm,	3,500.00
personal property,	2,460.00
eight school-houses,	12,300.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	100.00
road scraper,	100.00

JOSEPH A. SHORES,
E. BRADFORD WILBUR, } *Assessors.*
SAMUEL G. COPELAND, }

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE JAN. 1st, 1895.

16 tons English hay,	\$288.00
6 tons meadow and swale hay,	60.00
corn,	50.00
10 bushel beans,	20.00
10 cows,	375.00
1 horse,	75.00
30 fowls,	15.00
5 heifers and 1 bull,	145.00
2 oxen,	160.00
250 bushels potatoes,	187.00
turnips,	25.00
5 bushels beets,	2.00
cabbage,	5.00
300 lbs. pork,	30.00
25 lbs. lard,	2.50
6 lbs. butter,	1.80
1½ bbls. flour,	7.50
groceries,	5.00
100 lbs. sugar,	5.00
4 lbs. tea	2 00
2 pork barrels,	1.00
soap and oil,	.50
hay knife,	1.25
express wagon,	10.00
step ladder,	1.25
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenter's tools,	9.00
2 pigs,	15.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,502.80

Amount brought forward,	\$1,502.80
hay cutter,	4.00
5 stoves,	15.00
grind stone,	4.00
wheel hoe,	6.00
household furniture,	210.00
tinware,	10.00
crockery, etc.,	15.00
3 churns,	8.00
wooden ware,	15.00
beds and bedding,	95.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
2 hay wagons.	50.00
1 covered wagon,	40.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
1 pung,	8.00
harnesses,	25.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	8.00
robes and blankets,	6.00
mowing machine and rake,	40.00
6 plows 3 harrows and other tools,	70.00
horse sled,	7.00
manure and ashes,	100.00
coal,	94.73
2 ladders,	3.00
washing machine,	10.00
wood and lumber,	36.00
water pipe,	29.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,470.53
Inventory Jan 1st, 1894,	2,120.26
	<hr/>
Gain in Inventory,	\$350.27

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1894,	\$22.40
for milk,	1,058.28
stock,	62.00
potatoes,	84.98
eggs,	21.78
cabbage,	54.50
vegetables,	8.75
corn,	25.00
Lumber,	16.50
Drawn from treasury for	
L. A. Flagg for coal, seeds and repairs,	205.28
H. D. Reed & Co., flour,	29.05
G. R. Drake, grain,	89.15
J. O. Dean, grain and fertilizer,	486.57
Frank W. Alger, stock and meat,	159.17
Barns Brothers, meat,	3.96
L. H. Adams, smith work,	15.55
E. T. Goward for hay and pasturing,	121.79
E. B. Wilbur, fertilizer and stock,	147.50
A. H. Walker, services,	3.00
G. H. Holmes, groceries,	16.51
Geo. Tyler & Co., pipe and repairs,	28.55
A. M. Taylor, repairs,	3.85
	<hr/>
	\$2,664.12

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	\$34.05
meat,	201.43
grain,	559.37
coal,	181.60
butter, cheese, coffee and tea,	80.50
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	1,056.95

Amount brought forward,	1.056.95
fish,	21.64
fowl,	12.00
clothing,	51.55
repairs,	66.30
labor,	311.24
seeds,	18.80
hay,	83.79
fertilizer,	166.90
lumber,	4.00
bedding,	11.80
stock,	207.00
tools,	8.00
cash to paupers,	5.80
smith work,	34.35
pasturing stock,	28.00
groceries,	177.20
hardware,	8.11
sawing lumber,	13.77
wardens salary,	350.00
Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1895,	26.92
	<hr/>
	\$2,664.12

COST OF SUPPORTING POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from treasury per almshouse account,	\$1,309.93
Gain in inventory,	\$350.27
Cash on hand,	26.92
	<hr/>
	377.19
	<hr/>
	\$932.74

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	81	52
Albert Staples,	52	52
Conn Sullivan,	60	52

George B. Randall,	68	52
Michael Ryan,	46	52
Ansel Alger,	67	52
Fred Packard,	26	5

The warden during the year has lodged and fed (72) seventy-two tramps.

EXPENSES OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Frank Fadden's children,	\$145.00
Fred Leonard,	226.00
Abbie Fadden,	39.00
Mrs, Merton Churchill's children,	125.00
Mrs. Kenney,	64.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	15.33
Geo. W. Ellis,	159.84
Mrs. Frank Hayward,	127.21
Mrs. Mary A. Blake and son,	36.55
Mrs. Ruth Brown,	10.50
George N. Blanchard,	12.75
Fred Packard,	98.86
Charles E. Miller, Jr.	17.50
Mrs. Hannah Harvey,	163.30
John Neilson,	5.45
Miss Kate Ring,	16.00
Emanuel Lewis,	5.25
Arthur Harvey,	29.19
John Reeves,	6.67
William Bismore,	48.00
Susan E. Dunbar's children,	90.00
Charles E. Fisher and family,	32.26
Hayward children,	174.00
Russell W. Morse,	6.00
John Norman,	6.00
Total cost,	<hr/> \$1,659.66

		\$1,659.66
Received from New Bedford for William Bismore,	48.00	
Received from Raynham for Chas. E. Miller Jr.,	17.50	
Due from Easton for Geo. N. Blanchard,	12.75	
Plympton for N. Pratt,	15.33	
State, for Ellis, Brown and Blake families,	206.89	
John P. Hayward for Mrs. F. Hayward,	127.21	
	<hr/>	\$427.68
		<hr/>
		\$1,231.98

JOSEPH A. SHORES	} <i>Overseers</i> <i>of</i> <i>the Poor.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	
S. G. COPELAND,	
MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,	

Appropriation,	\$600.00
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Paid Enterprise Pub. Co.,	3.39
Charles E. Churchill,	2.00
Dr. F. W. Whitmarsh, reporting births,	1.25
J. S. Sampson, printing reports,	40.80
C. P. Howard, rent town hall,	75.00
E. L. Brown, surveying town line,	30.00
Daniel Perkins, rent of office,	18.00
Thomas Groom, collector's book and paper,	3.95
William E. Fay, printing,	7.75
Henry Withington, care monument grounds,	5.00
F. W. Howard, care of old cemetery,	3.00
Howard, Clark & Co., reporting deaths,	1.75
Geo. M. Pratt, printing and postage,	12.70
E. B. Wilbur, cash expenses and use of team,	31.96
J. A. Shores, cash expense, use of team & postage,	39.99
Geo. D. Alden, counsel Packard case,	20.00
Hosea Kingman, counsel { Gardner hen case, {	46.00
{ Miller liquor case, {	
Henry S. Porter, services,	5.46
Little, Brown & Co., books,	3.50
L. E. Hayward, care of old cemetary,	1.00
L. A. Flagg,	2.15
Frank H. Redman, repairs,	1.00
G. R. Drake,	.53
E. S. LeLacheur, reporting birth,	.25
Jas. F. McAnagh, fighting fires,	.75
Edward McAnagh, fighting fires,	.75

\$357.93

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Appropriation for schools,	\$3,700.00
“ “ school repairs and supplies,	500.00
“ “ superintendent,	250.00
Received from school fund,	206.84
“ “ state for superintendent,	166.66
	<hr/>
	\$4,823.50

There has been drawn from the treasury	
for schools,	\$4,044.14
For superintendent of schools,	249.96
school supplies,	184.36
school repairs,	308.16
	<hr/>
	\$4,786.62
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	36.88

LIBRARY.

Drawn from the treasury for the Library,	\$251.26
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MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid William E. Cobbett,	100.00

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$800.00
Paid Chas. E. Tisdale, auditor,	2.50
Horace W. Howard, auditor,	2.50
Chas. E. Tisdale, election officer,	1.80
Elias R. Holbroke, constable,	9.60
S. G. Copeland, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	130.25
Jos. A. Shores, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	234.10
E. B. Wilbur, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	149.00
Chas. R. Packard, town clerk,	65.08
Lucius Dunbar, registrar,	5.00
James A. Fobes, registrar,	7.75
Chas. H. Egan, election officer and constable,	6.05
Geo. M. Pratt, treasurer and collector,	200.00
Martha K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	10.00
L. A. Flagg, constable,	28.84
Hiram E. Weston, constable,	7.24
Henry L. King, services,	13.78
Mrs. A. L. LeLacheur, overseer of poor,	9.00
Curtis Eddy, Registrar,	4.20
E. B. Wilbur, inspector of cattle and beef,	150.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,036.69

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$3,500.00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved by Road Commissioners,	3,454.26
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$45.74

STATE AID.

George N. Blanchard,	\$108.00
Charles E. Churchill,	72.00
William T. Britton,	71.00
William E. Cole,	48.00
William Crockett,	48.00
Lucius Dunbar,	72.00
James P. Gallagher,	72.00
Linus E. Hayward,	36.00
Henry Hiatt,	48.00
William H. Jennings,	72.00
James H. Leonard,	72.00
John A. Millet,	5.00
Andrew W. Perkins,	72.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	72.00
Horace N. Weld,	72.00
Mary E. Alger,	48.00
Mary E. Howard,	48.00
Estella E. Howard,	48.00
Elizabeth O. Packard,	44.00
Mary J. Reeves,	48.00
Eliza F. Richardson,	48.00
Thomas Mason,	48.00
William B. Smith,	57.00
William E. Cobbitt,	48.00
Clarissa K. Howland,	48.00
B. Mary Dorgan,	44.00
Henry Withington,	28.00
Chas. T. Williams,	66.00
Ruth W. Hayward,	48.00
Abigail Cole,	28.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,639.00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury Jan. 1st, 1894,	\$2,716.18
Income of school fund,	206.84
Dog fund,	417.44
Police court of Brockton,	120.00
City of New Bedford,	48.00
Borrowed of Home National Bank,	4,924.70
Received from state, for Supt. of Schools,	166.66
Received tax bills for 1894,	13,017.34
Corporation tax,	523.98
National Bank tax,	456.38
Interest on taxes,	42.96
State aid,	1,574.00
Raynham, for C. E. Miller Jr.,	17.50
Plympton, for N. Pratt,	17.50
John P. Hayward, for Mrs. Hayward,	102.75
Brockton, for state and county tax,	320.42
Fines from prisoners,	15.00
Butcher's license,	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$24,688.65

EXPENDITURES.

Home National bank,	\$5,000.00
County tax,	1,517.03
State tax,	980.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$7,497.03

Amount brought forward,	\$7,497.03
State aid,	1639.00
Schools,	4,044.14
School repairs,	308.16
School supplies,	184.36
School superintendent,	249.96
Town officers,	1,036.69
Incidentals,	357.93
Abatement,	99.01
Library,	251.26
Memorial,	100.00
Poor out of the house,	1,659.66
Almshouse,	1,309.93
Highways and sidewalks,	3,454.26
Cash and uncollected taxes Jan. 1, 1895,	2,481.84
Interest on loan,	15.42
	<hr/>
	\$24,688.65

Condition of Treasury January 1, 1895.

Cash on hand,	\$251.71
Uncollected taxes for 1893,	274.36
Uncollected taxes for 1894,	1,955.77
	<hr/>
	\$2,481.84

In obedience to the instructions of the town, the undersigned have examined the accounts of all town officers for the year ending December 31, 1894. We find all orders drawn by the Selectmen properly vouched for by receipted bills.

CHARLES T. WILLIAMS, }
 CHARLES E. TISDALE, } *Auditors.*

NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

Lorenzo A. Tower,	Abial Washburn,
William H. Bosworth,	J. S. Jones,
George Burk,	Warren C. Kinney,
Charles H. Caldwell,	George H. Knapp,
Charles E. Churchill,	Arthur C. Peckham,
Frank Copeland,	Seba H. Marshall,
Bradford Copeland,	Herbert W. Packard
Charles H. Egan,	Japhet B. Packard,
Linus E. Hayward,	Joseph E. Ryder,
George C. Howard,	William F. Ryder,
Jonas Hartwell,	Charles E. Tisdale,
Julius Hayward,	Joseph Vosmus,
Fred J. Hambly,	E. B. Wilbur,
Joseph A. Shores,	Charles T. Williams,
William L. Woodworth,	Lucius Dunbar,
Clinton P. Howard,	Horace Bartlett.

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1894.

Curtis Eddy,	Frank P. Hatch,
Geo. W. Howard,	Hiram E. Weston.

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE.

For support of poor,	\$1,500.00
support of schools,	3,700.00
school repairs and supplies,	500.00
highways and sidewalks,	3,000.00

Town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	800.00
public lectures,	100.00
memorial service,	100.00
superintendent of schools,	250.00

The next annual meeting will be held on Monday the Fourth day of March.

JOSEPH A. SHORES.	}	<i>Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,		
SAMUEL G. COPELAND.		

REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

The Road Commissioners have approved bills to the following named persons for material and work on roads and sidewalks.

Joseph Breck & Sons,	\$16.00
Arthur J. Parker,	29.40
Eleazer Cole,	3.00
Charles H. Merrill,	31.60
Loren A. Flagg,	155.50
Waldo Bros.,	36.95
Joseph Vosmus,	2.50
Howard George,	14.00
William Penpraes,	4.00
I. E. Wheeler,	36.40
C. Denley,	4.80
John Burk,	8.40
Horace Atwell,	3.50
E. Wilson Macomber,	1.70
T. F. Wentworth,	1.65
F. J. O'Connor,	1.60
George O'Connor,	1.60
C. T. Williams,	40.50
P. O'Connor Estate,	99.00
Prescot Snell,	87.60
John Cashman,	65.00
Patrick Keenan,	28.50
Daniel Sullivan,	73.00
James Hennessy,	2.00
Thomas Dunn,	6.00
Peter Keenan,	25 00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$779.20

Amount brought forward,	\$779.20
E. B. Wilbur,	76.85
Hugh Gormley,	91.00
Edgar Billings,	18.00
Thomas Hennessy,	35.85
Horace Bartlett,	84.15
John J. White,	66.00
John Courtney,	27.40
William Church,	54.00
Bradford Copeland,	22.50
Michael McCarthy,	36.20
L. E. & E. Copeland,	22.00
Chas. E. Leonard,	62.30
Hatch & Carey,	1.65
Ole K. Ness,	5.60
Jos. C. Howard,	169.05
Owen Conlon,	4.00
Geo. H. Stone,	3.15
E. A. Godfrey,	38.70
Geo. Wilbur,	5.25
W. F. Ryder,	260.50
Geo. Hopkins,	397.42
Terrence Keenan,	127.50
John Luddy,	138.00
James Keenan,	66.40
William Quinlan,	82.80
William Gorman,	143.00
John A'Hern,	28.50
Daniel Lynch,	18.00
James McAnagh,	27.00
J. E. Ryder,	13.50
Michael Quinlan,	18.00
Albert L. Alger,	99.60
C. H. Fuller,	115.75
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$3,138.82

Amount brought forward,	\$3,138.82
W. R. Keith,	4.25
Charles H. Eagan,	34.15
E. N. Fisher,	3.55
Geo. W. Howard,	10.89
Michael King,	15.00
Phelix McGinn,	1.70
James F. McAnaugb,	8.00
John Norman,	1.60
W. K. Dickerson,	28.80
Erland Thayer,	8.50
L. E. Hayward,	16.10
Charles Howard,	8.50
Elihu Leonard,	5.25
Clinton P. Howard,	79.60
Julius M. Hayward,	89.55
	<hr/>
	\$3,454.26
Amount appropriated,	3,500.00
Amount expended,	3,454.26
	<hr/>
Balance of appropriation,	\$45.74
Due from J. M. Hayward for Drain Tile,	25.75
	<hr/>
	\$71.49

We recommend the town to raise thirty-five hundred dollars.

WILLIAM F. RYDER,	} <i>Road Commissioners.</i>
L. A. FLAGG,	
JOS. C. HOWARD.	

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

*Marriages Registered in West Bridgewater
in the year 1894.*

- May 20. Charles S. Lawson and Anna Jonson, both of West
Bridgewater.
- June 13. John S. Bergstrom and Annie O. Asklund, both of
West Bridgewater.
14. Jonas Hartwell and Etta L. Goss, both of West
Bridgewater.
- July 5. Thomas Luddy of West Bridgewater and Nellie
O'Brien of Bridgewater.
- Sept. 18. Charles M. Howland of West Bridgewater and
Adele Millard of Brockton.
19. William A. Hambly and Ruth H. Bartlett, both of
West Bridgewater.
- Oct. 24. Charles A. Lothrop of West Bridgewater and Saba
Keith Perkins of Bridgewater.
- Nov. 15. John Golden and Ellen Morrison, both of West
Bridgewater.
23. Jose P. DeAvila of Brockton and Angilinia L. Silva
of West Bridgewater.
27. Edward Rausbottom and Annie Kane, both of West
Bridgewater.
- Dec. 24. Nahum J. Wilbur of Raynham and Eveline D.
Lyons of West Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1894.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1891.			
Aug. 28,	Arthur Silva	Male	John and Theresa Silva.
1892.			
Dec. 24,	Nellie Gertrude Crosby	Female	Willard V. Crosby and Gertrude E. Sherick.
1893.			
March 7,	Grace Edna Burke	Female	John Burke and May Pittsley.
Aug. 2,	Ralph L. Allen	Male	Lincoln H. Allen and Lana D. Shaw.
Dec. 8,	Bertha Elizabeth Battles	Female	William F. Battles and Cora E. Brainard.
1894.			
Jan. 7,	Mary Cabral	Female	Jose Cabral and Julia A. Andrada.
17	Julia George	"	Joseph S. and Mary George.
30	Wesley Newton Churchill	Male	Thomas H. Churchill and Carrie M. Brett.
" 3,	Helen Amelia Pratt	Female	Edwin L. Pratt and Mary H. Pope.
" 5,	Thomas William Hennessey	Male	James W. Hennessey and Margaret Scanlon.
13	Bertha Mabel Clark	Female	Wallace Clark and Minnie H. Alger.
29	Alice Eveline Parry	"	George W. Parry and Susan M. Middleton.
31	Ruth Elizabeth Miller	"	Charles E. Miller Jr. and Laura E. Blake.
" 31	— Chassez	Male	Theophile and Adele Chassez.
17	Alfred Silva	"	John and Theresa Silva.
27	Janie Catherine Robbins	Female	John D. Robbins and Mary K. Doucette.
May 1,	Harold Emerson Brooks	Male	Benjamin F. Brooks and Alice Hall.
3	Margaret Esther Pratt	Female	Nathaniel Pratt and Esther Boyd.
" 3,	Alexander Winfield Cameron Parry	Male	Henry W. Parry and Catherine McLean.
20	Chester Russell Ripley	"	Lester P. Ripley and Mary J. Hunter.
23	Florence Louisa Lothrop	Female	Herbert A. Lothrop and Jennie W. McLeod.
July 21,	Alice Belle Alger	"	Cyrus E. Alger and Minnie K. Gould.
Aug. 11,	Herbert Rexford Lambert	Male	D. Webster Lambert and Nettie M. Styles.
23	Albert Alger Howard	"	Clinton P. Howard and Harriet F. Alger.
19	Anna Hortense Billings	Female	Howard E. Billings and Agnes M. Hemingway.
29	Jennie Elizabeth Dunbar	"	Chaunting F. Dunbar and Jennie Harvey.
Oct. 20,	William Henry McAnagh	Male	Edward H. McAnagh and Mary J. Hayes.
" 10,	Fred Bradford Alger	"	Fred A. Alger and Mabelle P. Wilde.
15	Mary Joseph Cabral	Female	Jose Cabral and Julia Andrada.
Dec. 17,	Ida Behmore	"	Octave Behmore and Elise Cadeau.
18	Daniel Kent	Male	Philip Kent and Jane Leary.
24	Helen Buckley	Female	Cornelius Buckley and Bridget Hennessey.
" 25,	Louise Gormley	"	Hugh Gormley and Susan Larkin.
" 25,	Lottie Emma Ellis	"	George W. Ellis and Liza Blake.
" 28			

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1894.

DATE.	NAMES OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAME OF PARENTS.
Jan. 5	Carrie F. Reeves.....	17	1	8	Typhoid Fever.....	W. Bridgewater.	John E. Reeves and Carrie Shipman.
" 23	Francis Dunbar.....	75	2	10	Disease of Heart.....	Brookton	Jonas Dunbar and Sybil Perkins.
Feb. 12	Hattie F. Redman.....	43	2	12	Congestion of Lungs...	W. Brookfield...	Israel H. Ross and Harriet M. Miller.
" 23	Mark Dunbar.....	81	4	26	Old Age.....	Brookton	Josiah Dunbar and Sybil Perkins.
March 6	Laura Lofthrop.....	73	3	2	Chronic Diarrhoe.....	Easton	Joshua Morse and Silence Wade.
" 3	Bertha E. Batiles.....	16	2	26	Convulsions.....	W. Bridgewater.	Wm. F. Baffles and Cora E. Brainard.
" 20	Mary Galvin.....	65	11	27	Pneumonia	Bridgewater....	Michael Gavin and Annie Sheridan.
May 21	Ivory Leavitt.....	11	7	12	Diphtheria	Buxton, Maine...	Wm. L. Woodworth & Adelia Dunbar.
June 19	Frank D. Woodworth..	82	7	7	Old Age.....	St. Albans, Vt...	Bennett Monroe and Lucy Sprague.
" 26	Eunice Folsom.....	71	7	20	Hemorrhage of stomach	Vermont.....	Jonathan Pierce and Lydia Eddy.
July 7	Hannah L. Thurston ..	49	2	20	Fracture of Skull.....	Somerset	John McFadden and Cathrine Foley.
" 9	James McFadden.....	36	2	5	Peritonitis.....	Ireland	John A. Wilds & Maria T. Alexander.
" 17	Maria A. Wilds.....	2	4	2	Cholera Infantum.....	Plymouth.....	Elmer Goodrich and Clara Baxter.
Sept. 1	Gilbert T. Goodrich....	2	2	4	Cholera Infantum.....	W. Bridgewater.	Foster J. Vosmus and Sarah B. Moore.
" 9	Arthur E. Cobbett.....	30	0	28	Tumor of Bowels.....	W. Bridgewater.	Ward Richards and Melitable Brown.
Oct. 1	George A. Vosmus.....	65	0	8	Carcinoma of Rectum...	W. Bridgewater.	Arnold Kingman & Emeline Bosworth.
" 12	Justin W. Richards....	50	11	21	Mitral Insufficiency...	Brookton	Cyreanus Rounds and Mercy Howard.
" 27	Alice W. Gould.....	75	6	15	Mitral Insufficiency...	Rehoboth.....	Nathan Joyce and Nancy Sherman.
" 27	Almon H. Rounds.....	70	6	7	Dysentery.....	Marshfield.....	Benjamin B. and Olive Howard.
Nov. 16	Elizabeth O. Packard..	75	4	29	Mitral Insufficiency...	W. Bridgewater.	Calvin Mordock and Polly Leonard.
" 19	Benjamin Howard.....	72	0	23	Apoplexy.....	W. Bridgewater.	Melvin O. Perkins and Mary A. Willis.
" 23	Sarah L. Hersey.....	52	1	14	Heart Disease.....	Brookton	
Dec. 1	Mary Jane Perkins....						

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth ss :

To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the Fourth day of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question: "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jorors as reported by the Selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will raise one hundred dollars for public lecturers.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 9. To see if the town will order the road commissioners to build a sidewalk on South Main street, and appropriate money for the same. (By request.)

ART. 10. To see if the town will appropriate money for necessary transportation of pupils to Grammar schools.

ART. 11. To see if the town will authorize the selectmen to take a lease of the lower hall and the room adjoining in the new Grange building, for town uses. (By request.)

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The total number of volumes in the library, Dec. 31, 1894, was 4,246, the number of additions during the year being 189.

The books loaned for the year were divided amongst the several classes as follows, viz:—

Agriculture,	10
Art,	10
Biography,	96
Fiction,	2,253
General Literature,	132
History,	93
Humorous Works,	47
Juvenile Works,	826
Magazines,	759
Poetry,	77
Works of Reference,	20
Science,	43
Travels,	70
	<hr/>
	4,436

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

Balance from 1893 account,	\$ 1.52
Received from Town Treasurer,	251.26
Fines and sales of catalogues, etc.	10.63
	<hr/>
	\$263.41

Expenditures.

For Letters and Numbers,	\$ 1.58
Material and labor for shelves,	3.33
Book Buyer,	1.00
Estes & Lauriat,	60.35
Librarians Salary,	104.36
Magazines,	34.46
Work on Catalogue,	13.00
Johnson's Cyclopaedia,	35 15
Stationery, express, postage, etc.	6.18
C. P. Howard, (wood)	2.00
Fire extinguishers,	2.00
	<hr/>
	\$263.41

Financial Condition of the Library :—

Balance unexpended Jan. 1, 1894,	303.48
Dog Tax for 1893,	417.44
	<hr/>
	720.92
Drawn from Treasury to Dec. 31, 1894,	251.26
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Balance unexpended,	469.66
Interest on same one year, @ 5%	23.48
	<hr/>
	493.14
Dox Tax 1894,	338.09
	<hr/>
Due Library Jan. 1, 1895,	831.23
The Cornelia Alger Fund now amounts to	717.23

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees of the Public Library.

CHAS. R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1894 the following were members of the committee :

G. C. HOWARD and W. E. BOSWORTH for three years.

Mrs. A. S. LELACHEUR and H. M. WILLARD for 2 years.

J. A. SHORES and Mrs. M. K. CROSBY for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows :

J. A. SHORES, *Chairman*.

M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.

G. C. HOWARD and W. H. BOSWORTH, *Committee on Repairs*.

L. A. FLAGG, H. E. WESTON and C. H. EAGAN, *Truant Officers*.

The schools were assigned as follows :

North and South to Mr. Shores.

Cochesett to Mr. Howard.

Centre to Mrs. LeLacheur.

East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.

Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

H. M. Willard and M. K. Crosby were chosen committee on Music.

To J. A. Shores, A. S. LeLacheur and M. K. Crosby was assigned the examination of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby was appointed agent for school supplies.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS

Paid Miss E. E. Wilson,	35 weeks 3 days,	\$346.20
Miss E. A. Morrow,	36 "	432.00
Miss I. S. Wood	36 "	360.00
Miss M. J. Dunbar,	36 "	403.00
Miss W. A. Holmes,	36 "	360.00
Miss R. L. MacDonald,	36 "	360.00
Miss A. Dunn,	22 "	187.00
Miss H. Turner,	15 "	135.00
Miss M. A. Dewyre,	38 "	412.00
Miss M. C. Keith,	36 "	360.00
Miss L. A. Burke,	1 week, 1 day,	10.80
Miss H. D. Howard,	1 week, 3 days,	14.40
Miss L. M. Smith,	3 days,	5.40
Miss A. A. Barrows.	(music)	75.00
Mr. E. J. Sawyer,	(music)	52.06
Paid Conveyance of Music Teacher,		55.13
		<hr/>
		\$3,567.99

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$14.00
Cochesett,	25.00
Centre,	27.00
South,	14.00
East,	14.00
Matfield,	14.00
North Centre,	14.00
North, (for January)	1.50
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\$123.50	

MEASURES, REFERENCE BOOKS AND TUITION.

Lippincott's Gazetteer. (2 copies)	\$16.00
Webster's large dictionary,	8.50
Periodicals for Grammar Schools,	9.04
Rand. McNally & Co's Atlas, (2 copies)	3.50
7 sets of liquid and dry measures,	14.70
Easton for tuition, one pupil,	6.00
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	\$57.74

FUEL.

Paid S. G. Copeland, 3 cords oak wood,	\$15.00
J. E. Ryder, 5 cords hard, 3 cords pine,	37.00
L. A. Flagg, 8,200 lbs egg coal,	27.66
L. A. Flagg, 8,000 lbs egg coal,	25.00
L. A. Flagg, 1,000 lbs stove coal,	3.50
L. E. & E. Copeland, 3 cords hard wood,	
1 cord pine wood and labor,	24.00
Charles Nelson, labor,	2.50
C. T. Williams, 9 cords hard wood, 3 cords pine,	57.00
G. W. Ellis, labor, 4 cords,	8.00
P. K. Bacon, fuel for North School,	8.50
E. Thayer, one-half cord pine wood,	2.00
for labor on wood at Jerusalem,	2.50
for labor on wood at East,	1.25
C. Keene, labor,	15.50
E. T. Snell, 2 cords hard wood, 4 cords pine,	26.00
H. Withington, labor on wood,	17.00
W. Penpraese, labor on wood,	22.50
	<hr/>
	\$294.91

Expenditures.

Teacher's wages,	\$3,567.99
Fuel,	294.91
Janitors,	123.50
Tuition,	6.00
Reference Books and Measures,	51.74
	<hr/>
	\$4,044.14

Receipts.

Town grant,	\$3700 00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	206.84
On account of District Supervision,	166.66
	<hr/>
	\$4,073.50

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid J. L. Hammett, readers and general supplies,	\$36.58
American Book Co., geographies, histories and spelling blanks,	12.38
The Thorp and Martin Mfg. Co., paper, pencils and other supplies,	39.15
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., readers,	4 94
University Pub. Co., readers,	40.10
Ginn & Co., histories and music books,	49.77
The Prang Educational Co., drawing books,	1.44
	<hr/>
	\$184.36

New Supplies on hand Dec. 31, 1894.

Davis' readers, histories, and arithmetics,	\$32.54
Copy, drawing and exercise books,	8.01
Paper, pencils, pens, crayons, etc.,	9.87
	<hr/>
	\$50.42

Inventory of stock on hand Jan. 1, 1894,	37.80
Amount drawn from treasury,	184.36
Inventory of new stock, Dec. 31. 1894,	\$50.42
Supplies furnished schools,	171.74

REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid O. R. Leonard, whitening at Jerusalem and Matfield,	\$10.00
Jarvis Burrill, printing,	19.06
Shingles, 6 M. for East building,	20.40
Other stock for East,	2.61
I. M. Charlton, labor at East,	5.00
S. D. Bartlett, labor at East,	5.00
Fence at Jerusalem, labor and stock,	26.15
Geo. E. Leach, 13 days painting at Centre,	32.50
Geo. E. Leach, stock for same,	19.53
Geo. E. Leach, inside work, 6 days and stock, (Jerusalem)	23.44
Geo. E. Leach, inside work, 6 days and stock, (Matfield)	26.52
J. H. Fairbanks, labor on stoves and stock,	19.62
Expressage,	6.50
Constable service,	6.50
Postage, stationery and small incidentals,	16.39

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	\$2.65
Cochesett,	17.75
South,	4.71
Centre,	24.40
East,	4.60
Matfield,	3.10
North Centre,	11.73

Whole amount of repairs.	\$308.16
Cost of school supplies,	184.36
Town grant for repairs and supplies.	500.00

The average membership in the schools for the year has been 227.67, and the cost of supplies furnished by the town has been \$171.74 or 79.8 cents per scholar.

The school census for May 1, 1894, gave 265 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these 221 were in the common schools, 7 in the Howard school, 4 taught at home, 8 (6 above 14 years) at work, 2 incompetent, 7 sick and 16 young and not yet in school.

Professor Willard has furnished the following High School statistics.

Number admitted in Sept. 1894,	10
Number attending Fall term,	28
Number of different pupils for the year,	32
Percentage of attendance for Fall term,	89%

CALENDAR FOR 1895.

WINTER TERM, Jan. 7 to March 22, 1895. 11 weeks.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 8 to June 14. 10 weeks.

Vacation. 12 weeks.

FALL TERM, Sept. 9 to Dec. 20. 15 weeks.

Recess. Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

WINTER TERM. 1896, Jan. 6th.

Changes in this will be made to meet special needs in any school.

The school formerly called North Centre, will now be known as the North.

There has been during the past year, gratifying gain in the per cent. of average attendance, from 90 to 92.9 per cent.

The present law relating to school attendance and truancy.

"Chap. 188. Sect. 1. Every person having under his control a child between the ages of eight and fourteen years, * * * * * shall annually cause such child to attend some public day school in the city or town in which he resides, for at least thirty weeks if the schools are kept open that length of time, with an allowance of two weeks time for absence not excused by the superintendent of schools or the school committee ; such period of attendance shall begin within the first month of the fall term of school, and for each five days of absence of any such child thereafter, in excess of the above allowance, before the completion of the required annual attendance of thirty weeks, the person having such child under his control shall, upon the complaint of the school committee or any truant officer, forfeit to the use of the public schools of such city or town a sum not exceeding twenty dollars ; but if such child attended for a like period of time a private day school approved by the school committee of such city or town, or if such child has been otherwise instructed for a like period of time in the branches of learning required by law to be taught in the public schools, or has already acquired the branches of learning required by law to be taught in the public schools or if his physical or mental condition is such as to render such attendance inexpedient or impracticable, such penalty shall not be incurred."

A portion of our share of the State School Fund has been expended for reference books and apparatus.

The substitution of cheap paper for slates is perhaps somewhat more expensive, but as it contributes so much to quiet cleanliness in the school room, it is deemed wise to make a trial of its use.

It will be necessary this year to provide fresh geographies in place of the old ones now in use, and also to complete the change of arithmetics in some of the lower grades.

We refer all interested to the report of our Superintendent which shows the present condition of our schools, and offers suggestions and recommendations for the consideration of both the committee and the community.

We fully endorse his suggestions in reference to conveying the older pupils from remote sections of our town to one of the grammar schools, that they may have equal opportunities with pupils who live within reasonable walking distance from these schools, and we recommend the town to grant a moderate sum to enable us to carry this just measure into effect.

We also recommend for this year the following appropriations:

For the support of schools,	\$3,700.00
For repairs and incidentals,	300.00
For text-books and supplies,	200.00

At the annual meeting two members of the committee should be elected for three years.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. SHORES,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
M. K. CROSBY,		
A. S. LELACHEUR,		
W. H. BOSWORTH,		
G. C. HOWARD,		
H. M. WILLARD,		

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Jan. 24th, 1895.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of West Bridgewater:

I herewith submit my annual report of the schools of this town for the year ending, Dec. 31, 1894.

Number of schools in town,	9
Number of teachers required,	9
Number of teachers employed during the year, including two music teachers,	12
Number of schools having different teachers,	1
Number of children in town between the ages of 5 and 15 years, as shown by the census taken May, 1894	265
Number, between 8 and 14 years, as per census,	166
Number of different pupils of all ages, enrolled on school registers,	307
Greatest number enrolled in any school, (Matfield,)	49
Least " " " " (East,)	25
Average membership,	227.67
Centre Grammar, 30; Centre Primary, 26.49;	
Cochesett Grammar, 24.10; Cochesett Primary, 31.5;	
East, 20; Matfield, 32.97; North, 14.2;	
South, 18.37; Jerusalem, 29.98.	
Average attendance,	209.04
Centre Grammar, 28.36; Centre Primary, 22.72;	
Cochesett Grammar, 28.78; Cochesett Prim'y, 28.09;	
East, 18.55; Matfield, 29.88; North, 13.56;	
South, 16.38; Jerusalem, 27.91.	
Average attendance per room,	23.22
Per cent of average attendance,	.929

Centre Grammar, .945 ; Centre Primary, .897 ;
 Cochesett Grammar, .945 ; Cochesett Primary, .911 ;
 East, .927 ; Matfield, .906 ; North, .955 ;
 South, .891 ; Jerusalem, .93.

Per cent of average attendance for 1893,	.90
Number of children in attendance over 15 years of age,	9
Number of children in attendance under 5 years,	7
Number of children in attendance between 8 and 14 yrs.	184
Number of visits made by Truant Officers,	10
Number of truants found,	0
Number of employment certificates granted,	8

I am pleased to record the fact that the per cent of average attendance has increased nearly three per cent over that of last year. With due allowance for the exceptionally severe weather and bad traveling of last winter, the average attendance is as good as could reasonably be expected. Could parents be thoroughly awakened to the idea that the school is an important business for their children, a business that can receive their attention for only a few years, there would be fewer absences for trivial reasons.

Absences are regarded by many parents as trifling, when, in reality, they are most important. Do parents realize that, by allowing their children to be absent, they are doing an injury to the school, besides making neutral its influence upon the child concerning character building? Can we not have the hearty co-operation of every parent on this subject?

Pupils in the Grammar Schools have taken great interest in the reading tables established in their respective school-rooms during the year. Every day, a few minutes are profitably spent in the review or discussion of what has been read of interest during the day. The success of this plan the past year is sufficient evidence for asking for a small appropriation necessary to continue the work the coming year.

Our schools are now all supplied with sets of dry and liquid measures so indispensable to accurate results in teaching

Weights and Measures. The public examinations held last June, showed that good use had been made of them in the school work.

Lippincott's Geographical Gazetteer, and Rand, McNally's Atlas of the World have been added to the list of reference books for the Grammar Schools.

TEACHERS.

It will be noticed in the table of statistics that only one change has been made in our regular teaching force for the year. At the close of the summer term, Miss Dunn closed her labors as teacher of the East School and was succeeded in Sept. by Miss Hattie A. M. Turner who has entered upon her duties in a manner that is full of promise for the best results.

I can but speak in terms of praise of our teachers and the earnest purpose which actuates them all.

Teachers' meetings have been held during the year whenever new subjects or new methods were to be presented, and I think these meetings have been helpful to the teachers and indirectly so to their pupils.

MUSIC.

About fifteen to twenty minutes a day (or about one twentieth of the school time) are devoted to the study and practice of music in our schools. On account of the resignation of Miss Barrows at the close of the summer term, we were compelled to engage the services of another teacher. We consider ourselves fortunate in securing, as director of Music, Mr. E. F. Sawyer of Allston, Mass. Mr. Sawyer comes to us with years of successful experience in this work. He handles the subject skillfully and the pupils are making rapid progress under his supervision.

REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC,

Mr. R. D. McKeen, Superintendent of Schools, West Bridgewater, Mass.

Dear Sir,

When I undertook the supervision of the instruction in music in the schools of West Bridgewater, for my own information and for the purpose of comparison with subsequent tests, I examined all the pupils in the first four grades. The test was very simple—namely, to sing the scale, and the results are given in the following table:

Grade.....	I	II	III	IV	Total.
Whole number of pupils.....	48	43	38	29	158
Number unable to sing scale correctly,	38	23	15	8	84
Percentage “ “ “ “	.82	.53	.40	.27	.53

A similar test was made during the last week of the Fall term with the following results:

Grade.....	I	II	III	IV	Total.
Whole number of pupils.....	33	37	34	31	135*
Number unable to sing scale correctly,	12	8	5	2	27
Percentage “ “ “ “	.36	.22	.15	.06	.20

A comparison of these tables shows that in the short period of three months the percentage of pupils unable to sing the scale correctly decreased from .53 to .20. An examination at the end of the school year in June, will undoubtedly show much greater improvement.

These figures are interesting in that they show what has been done, in a short time in one direction; the improvement that has been made in tone-production, articulation, rhythm, and reading cannot be tabulated.

The claim of the study of music to an important place in the public school curriculum is now so almost universally admitted that

* (No test made at Jerusalem school, so many pupils being absent on account of sickness.

argument in its behalf is not necessary. Committees, superintendents, and teachers concede its hygienic, disciplinary and aesthetic usefulness. But few realize the great value of music, if rightly taught, as a means of mental discipline. In this respect it stands on a par with arithmetic. To sing at sight, correctly, exercises in various keys and kinds of rhythm, requires thought and brings into action the faculties of preception, memory and judgment. The eye must be quick to recognize the pitch and the time-value of notes; the memory, impressed by previous drill, should instantly recall the tones represented by the notes, the carefully trained voice give them utterance in sweet, pure tones, while the sensitive ear tests the result.

I know of no study that exercises so many of the faculties of the mind.

During the term just finished an effort has been made to secure an improvement in the quality of tone, greater facility in reading, and a more accurate sense of rhythm with gratifying success. I am indebted to the committee, the superintendent, and the teachers for hearty cooperation without which improvement would be impossible.

For the remainder of the school year the work will be continued on the same lines and I confidently expect that the progress of the pupils will be such as to justify the wisdom of the committee and superintendent in introducing into the schools the systematic study of music.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND F. SAWYER,

Supervisor of Music.

Boston, December 31, 1894.

TEACHERS' LIBRARY.

The changing conditions and increasing requirements of our schools demand of teachers a more thorough professional training and a broader knowledge than in former years. The teacher's professional improvement depends largely upon her

reading, and if she limits herself to a casual study of her educational papers or periodicals, however instructive they may be, she will not be fitted to impart the needed instruction by the best and most improved methods. Every teacher should pursue a course of reading each year in one or more of the subjects.— History, Science, Literature or Pedagogy. In many cities and towns of the state, a “Teachers’ Library has been started that furnishes a means of self improvement to those teachers who cannot well afford to obtain it otherwise. Such a library could be made possible in West Bridgewater if a small appropriation was made each year for this purpose.

Why not make a beginning the coming year?

NATURE WORK.

Nature Work has not received any special attention, but the work has steadily progressed. It has not been taught as a study isolated from all others, having no relation or connection with other subjects. The knowledge gained from the study of Nature not only strengthens that gained from other subjects, as history, geography &c., but is a natural foundation for expression in language and drawing.

As far as practicable, we have followed the “Outline of Nature Study” prepared by Mr. A. C. Boyden, and papers in nearly all schools are preserved showing the pupils’ work in this line.

READING AND ENGLISH.

The most unsatisfactory results now obtained in our schools are in Reading and the ability to use good English. Many pupils can solve, in a skillful manner, difficult problems in arithmetic, and do creditable work in geography or history, but cannot read common prose with expression or express their thoughts grammatically on any subject. The results reached

in teaching the use of good English would be more gratifying if teachers and parents would be co-workers. However painstaking our teachers may be, unless the children are guarded by their parents in the home, and in the selection of playmates, our labors in this line will continue to fall short of what they should.

We are making strenuous efforts for improvement in reading in the schools. In my opinion, the first four years of the child's school life is sufficient time, under ordinary circumstances, to teach them *how* to read, and from this time onward, it should be the teacher's purpose to make the child acquainted with good literature and to create a love for good reading. How can we secure these ends? We are fairly well supplied with good reading matter, but how can we best secure the desired results while so many other subjects solicit our attention? To meet the requirements of the present age and comply with the Statute Laws, we have added, from time to time, extra work in various lines, until to-day our schools are crowded to the utmost.

The teachers are so hurried in their work that proper time is not given the pupils for thought and reflection. Were our schools closely graded, with only one or two classes in a room much of this difficulty would be avoided. In our eight years of school life, we are expected to give the children a fair knowledge of the essentials of arithmetic, geography and grammar; to create a taste for good reading; to read music, and sing in the different keys; to obtain a general knowledge of the physiology of our bodies and of the laws of health. All this work is to be begun in the first year of school and carried on harmoniously through the entire course.

I commend to your careful consideration the fact that at the Centre and Cochesett, there are four grades in each room; five grades in the North, South and Matfield schools; six grades in the East school, and seven in the Jerusalem school. In each grade, work is being done in the subjects enumerated, although

in all schools the work of one grade is united with that of another in one or more of the subjects Reading, Spelling, Geography, or Language.

What wonder is it that our teachers feel hurried and carry with them from the school room that heavy burden of care so destructive to the vitality of every hard working teacher.

There is not time for the individual assistance that is often needed to help the dull, backward pupil onward.

This defect in our school system can but be acknowledged by all, and attempts to remedy should demand our attention. While it would be unwise to make a sudden change in our school system, we can make a gradual transition. Our aim should be, not to curtail the amount of work required, not to hurry the children through it, but to improve the quality of the work already attempted and give opportunity for thought and development. To do this, we must lessen the number of grades in charge of one teacher, and extend the time now taken to complete our Course of Studies from eight to nine years. A pupil entering our schools at five years of age, and passing without interruption through the several classes will graduate at the age of fourteen or fifteen—none too old to begin work in the High School

Let us give our pupils thorough and careful instruction in those studies that are of educational value and which will serve as their best equipment for life's work.

We could easily take the first step in this improvement as suggested, if the town would grant a small sum of money for the necessary conveyance of the older pupils, from the more mixed schools to the Grammar schools at the Centre and Cochesett.

This would lessen the number of classes in these mixed schools and improve the quality of work in all the schools and give the higher grades, in all sections, equal opportunities.

PROMOTIONS.

At the close of the summer term, four from the Cochesett Grammar, and seven from the Centre Grammar school, having completed our "Course of Studies," were awarded diplomas.

As such a large proportion of the graduates from our Grammar Schools succeed in gaining admission to the High School, Prof. Willard has kindly consented to admit to the High School, without examination, all pupils who satisfactorily complete the "Course of Studies" in the public schools of this town and are awarded diplomas.

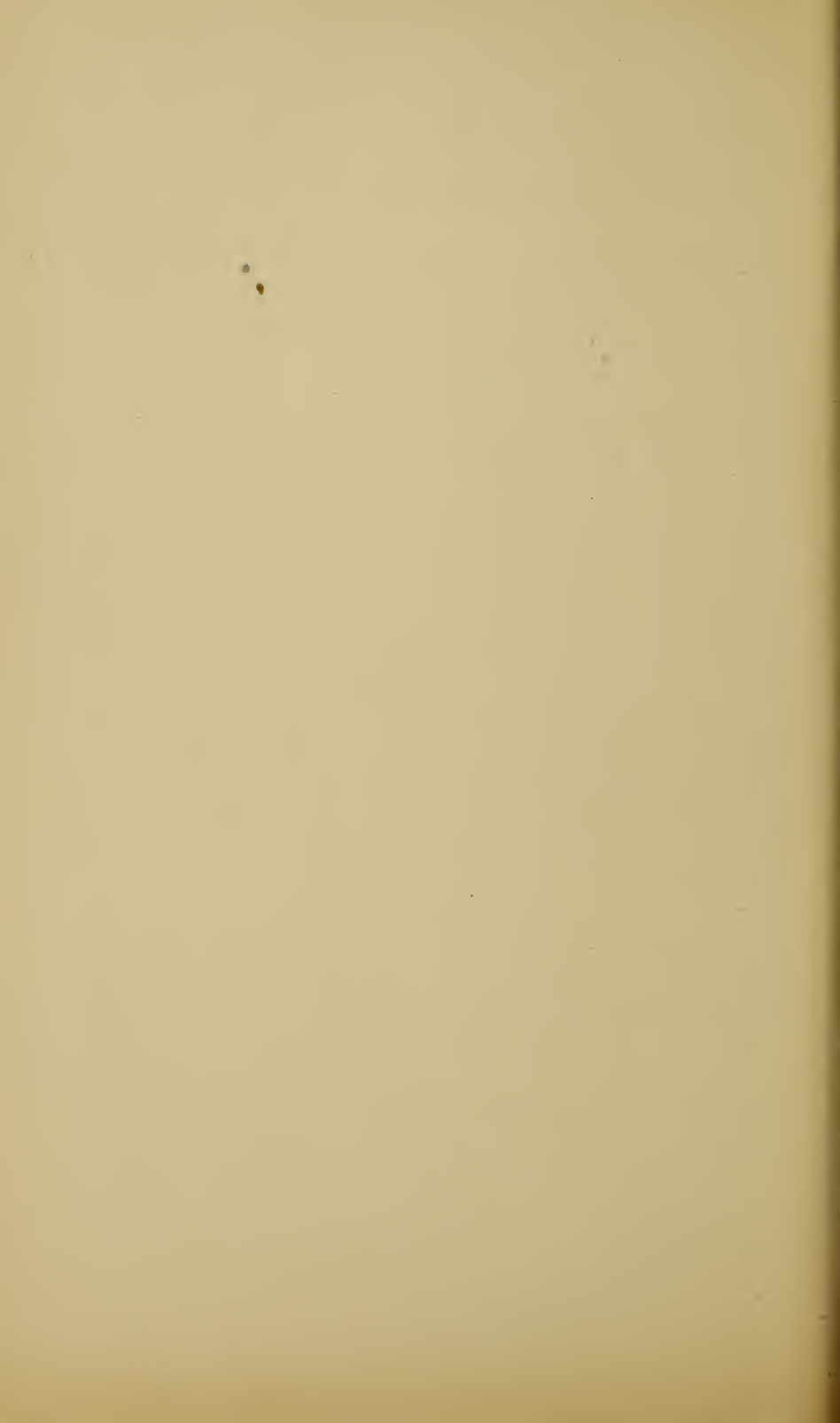
I trust that the coming year may see the schools of West Bridgewater steadily improve. My whole time is given to finding the best means and methods for desired results. A few defects have been pointed out in our school system and suggestions for improvement have been made. We are not, in a true sense, experimenting in any department of our work, but are laboring along the lines acknowledged by our best thinkers and educators.

I wish to thank the school committee, teachers and citizens for the generous support and encouragement given me in my work. I realize in a lively sense the obligations I am under to you all.

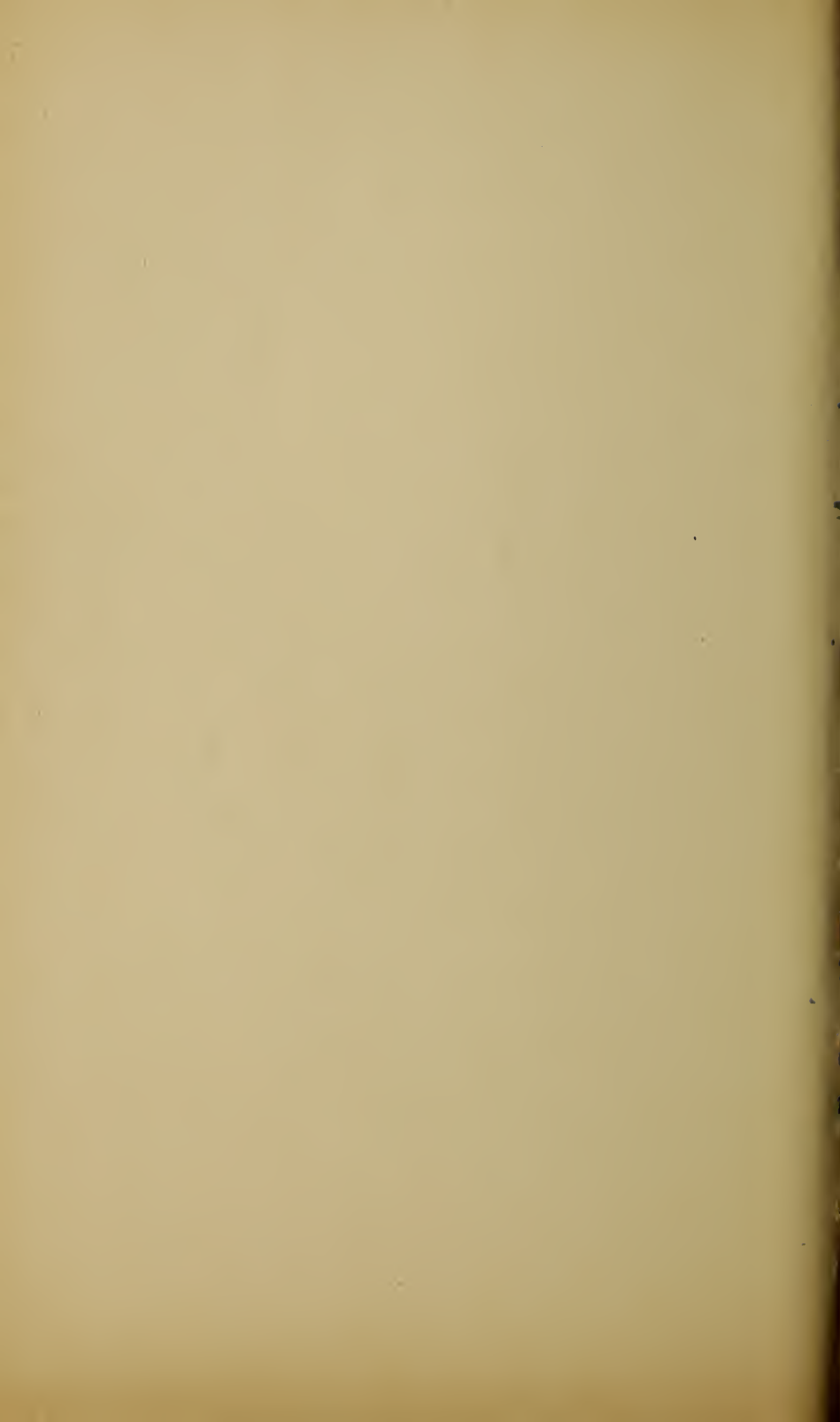
Respectfully,

R. D. McKEEN,

Jan. 23, 1895.











ANNUAL REPORTS

. . . OF THE . . .

TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

. . . OF . . .

WEST BRIDGEWATER

. . . FOR THE . . .

Year Ending, January 1st, 1896,



TAUNTON, MASS.:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF J. S. SAMPSON.

1896.

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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1895.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF POOR, AND ASSESSORS.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

E. BRADFORD WILBUR.

SAMUEL G. COPELAND.

OVERSEER OF POOR.

ANNA S. LELACHEUR.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

GEO. C. HOWARD,

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR.

WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH,

H. M. WILLARD.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

CHARLES R. PACKARD,

MRS. CHARLOTTE A. WILLIAMS,

MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN,

MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,

JOSEPH A. SHORES,

HORACE M. WILLARD.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

JOSEPH C. HOWARD,

WILLIAM F. RYDER.

LOREN A. FLAGG.

CONSTABLES.

DANIEL W. GARDNER,

ELLIS R. HOLBROOK,

HENRY G. KINNEY.

LOREN A. FLAGG,

PRESTON WEST,

CHARLES H. EGAN.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

FIELD DRIVERS.

CHARLES H. EGAN,

HERBERT A. LOTHROP,

ALBERT L. ALGER.

CHARLES E. SULLIVAN,

GEORGE W. HOWARD,

GEORGE J. KINGMAN,

EDWARD MADDEN.

FENCE VIEWERS.

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

LOREN A. FLAGG.

JOSEPH C. HOWARD.

MEASURERS OF LUMBER.

ALGERNON S. LYON.

MALBOY A. RIPLEY,

SAMUEL L. RYDER.

LESTER P. RIPLEY,

DANIEL B. DAVIS.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

FRANK H. JONES,

HORACE BARTLETT,

CHAS. R. PACKARD,

HENRY C. KINNEY,

WILLIAM F. RYDER,

CLINTON P. HOWARD.

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FOBES,

LUCIUS DUNBAR,

CURTIS EDDY.

AUDITORS.

CHARLES E. TISDALE,

CHARLES T. WILLIAMS.

POUND KEEPER.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town January 1, 1896 is respectfully submitted :

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION.

As Assessed May 1, 1895.

Value of real estate,	\$854,636.00
Value of personal estate,	141,476.00
Total,	<u>\$996,112.00</u>

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$600.00	
County tax,	1,329.60	
	<u> </u>	\$1,929.60
Town grant,	\$10,750.00	
Overlay,	685.31	
	<u> </u>	\$11,435.31
Total tax,		<u>\$13,364.91</u>
Rate of tax, \$12.50 per \$1000.		Poll tax, \$2.00

Number of polls	456
acres of land,	9162
dwelling houses,	370
horses,	396
cows,	651
sheep.	37
swine,	111
young stock,	99
fowls,	1,415

APPROPRIATIONS

Headstones for deceased poor	\$50.00
For support of schools,	3,700.00
school supplies and repairs,	500.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks,	3,000.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	600.00
memorial service,	100.00
Transportation of Scholars,	150.00
School Superintendent,	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$10,750.00

TOWN PROPERTY

Value of New Almshouse and wood-house,	\$5,000.00
town farm,	3,500.00
personal property,	2,460.00
eight school houses,	12,300.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	50.00
road scraper,	100.00

JOSEPH A. SHORES, E. BRADFORD WILBUR, SAMUEL G. COPELAND,	} Assessors.
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REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF POOR

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE JAN. 1st, 1896.

16 tons English hay,	\$288.00
8 tons meadow and swale hay,	80.00
corn,	70.00
3½ bushels beans,	7.00
13 cows,	520.00
1 horse,	50.00
25 fowls,	13.00
1 heifer,	30.00
2 oxen,	160.00
potatoes,	80.00
50 bushels turnips,	25.00
5 bushels beets,	2.00
cabbage,	5.00
350 lbs. pork,	35.00
45 lbs. lard,	4.50
70 lbs. butter,	18.00
1½ bbls. flour,	7.00
groceries,	20.00
200 lbs. sugar,	10.00
40 lbs. tea	10.00
3 pork barrels,	2.00
soap and oil,	9.40
hay knife,	1.25
express wagon,	20.00
step ladder,	1.25
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenter's tools,	9.00
¼ bbl. Graham Flour,	.50
45 lbs. Rolled Oats.	1.00
200 lbs. Hams and Shoulders,	20.00
600 lbs. Beef	36.00
molasses,	10.00
Amount carried forward	<hr/> \$1,548.90

Amount brought forward,	\$1,548.90
hay cutter,	4.00
3 stoves,	12.00
grind stone,	4.00
wheel hoe,	6.00
household furniture,	216.00
tinware,	11.00
crockery, etc,	24.00
3 churns,	8.00
wooden ware,	15.00
beds and bedding,	110.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
2 hay wagons,	50.00
1 covered wagon,	30.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
1 pung,	8.00
harnesses,	15.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	6.00
robes and blankets,	6.00
mowing machine and rake,	40.00
6 plows 3 harrows and other tools,	70.00
horse sled,	7.00
manure and ashes,	120.00
coal,	80.00
2 ladders,	3.00
washing machine,	10.00
wood and lumber,	50.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,512.90
Inventory Jan. 1st. 1895	2,470.53
	<hr/>
Gain in Inventory,	\$42.37

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand Jan. 1 st. 1895.		\$26.92
Received for milk,		895.20
“ “ stock,		187.78
“ “ potatoes,		55.25
“ “ eggs,		3.00
“ “ vegetables,		18.25
“ “ labor,		5.00
“ “ lumber,		18.12
Drawn from treasury for		
“ “ “	L. A. Flagg,	\$47.81
“ “ “	Geo. Tyler & Co.	18.93
“ “ “	W. T. Shurtliff,	107.44
“ “ “	L. R. Churchill,	18.96
“ “ “	Isam Mitchill & Co.,	17.55
“ “ “	J. M. Howard & Son,	238.04
“ “ “	W. C. Whiting,	17.50
“ “ “	George H. Holmes,	5.94
“ “ “	George H. Knapp,	27.63
“ “ “	J. A. Fuller,	100.00
“ “ “	George T. Shaw,	29.90
“ “ “	Lincoln H. Allen,	40.00
“ “ “	Brown & Wiley,	36.83
“ “ “	W. G. Goodrich & Co.,	36.29
“ “ “	N. W. Bradford,	70.62
“ “ “		5.00
“ “ “	Dr. W. H. Brownell,	15.50
“ “ “	Dow Manfg. Co.,	12.90
“ “ “	J. S. Sargent & Co.,	27.38
“ “ “	Wm. E. Cole,	31.61
“ “ “	Williams & Clarke	
	Fertilizer Co.,	112.00
“ “ “	Walter A. Brown,	3.20
Amount carried foward		<hr/> \$2,230.55

Amount brought forward		2,230.55
Drawn from treasury for	Frank P. Hatch,	2.30
“ “ “	Horace Atwell,	2.25
“ “ “	Brown & Logue,	50.97
“ “ “	L. H. Adams,	27.88
“ “ “	E. H. Lothrop	60.51
“ “ “	E. F. Goward,	44.91
“ “ “	A. S. LeLacheur,	1.10
“ “ “	E. J. Bean,	35.00
“ “ “	A. S. Lyons,	4.50
“ “ “	Geo R. Drake,	39.68
“ “ “	Chilton Howard,	1.00
“ “ “	A. M. Taylor,	4 50
“ “ “	Sanford Winter,	33.80
“ “ “	J. O. Dean,	175.49
		<hr/>
		\$2,714.44

COST OF SUPPORTING POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from treasury per almshouse account,	\$1,504.92
Gain in Inventory,	42.37
Cash on hand,	73.66
	<hr/>
	115.93
	<hr/>
	\$1,388.99
From the above account there has been	
Paid for paint and painting buildings,	\$98.00
repairs on barn,	49.00
putting water into barn,	23.50
	<hr/>
	\$170.50

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	\$30.82
meat,	209.54
grain,	479.61
coal,	60.51
butter, cheese, coffee and Tea,	81.05
medicine and Doctor bills,	34.00
Fish,	23.59
clothing,	55.58
painting buildings and other repairs,	219.40
labor,	345.02
seeds,	16.60
hay,	30.71
fertilizer,	115.50
lumber,	22.55
furniture and bedding,	33.30
stock,	130.00
tools and hardware,	65.71
cash to Paupers,	5.00
tobacco,	9.12
smithwork,	40.88
pasturing stock,	28.00
groceries,	223.39
sweet potatoes,	2.41
molasses,	13.22
wardens salary,	360.38
cash on hand,	73.56
ice,	4.99
	<hr/>
	\$2,714.44

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	82	50
Albert Staples,	53	52
Conn. Sullivan,	61	30
Geo. B. Randall,	69	30
Michael Ryan,	47	52
Ansel Alger,	68	52
Sarah B. Howard,	63	35
Russell Morse,	77	3

The warden during the year has lodged and fed (102) one hundred and two tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Frank Peck,	\$4.16
Isaac Bates,	11.00
John Reeves,	29.00
Mrs. Eugene Hammell,	3.50
W. A. Dean,	4.22
Abigail Fadden,	18.75
Charles E. Miller,	20.60
Arthur L. Harvey,	14.13
Nathaniel Pratt,	50.76
Mrs. E. J. Packard,	338.92
Geo. W. Ellis,	29.50
John A. W. Alger,	5.00
John Robbins,	7.97
Hannah Harvey,	196.03
Mrs. Kinney,	63.00
Arthur P. Packard,	30.00
Anson E. Cobbitt,	23.75
Fred Leonard,	222.00
Merton Churchill's children,	117.50
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> 1,189.79

Amount brought forward,	1,189.79
George Dunbar's children,	156.00
Charles E. Fisher,	51.26
Frank Fadden's children,	122.50
Frank Amsden,	97.81

Total cost,	\$1,617.36
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Due from Easton for Frank Peck,	\$4.16
Raynham, for Charles E. Miller,	20.60
Plympton, for N. Pratt,	50.76
The State, for Mrs. Hammell,	3.50
“ “ for Geo. W. Ellis,	29.50
“ “ for Frank Amsden,	97.81
	<hr/>
	\$206.33

Cost to the town,	\$1,411.03
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JOSEPH A. SHORES,
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,
S. G. COPELAND,
Mrs. A. S. LELACHEUR,

Overseers of the Poor.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,	\$600 00
Paid Charles L. McCann, reporting deaths,	2 00
F. L. Howard, “ “	7 25
Geo. M. Pratt, for account book,	2 00
L. A. Flagg, moving safe, books, etc,	18 25
Nelson Messer, stone bound,	12 00
J. S. Sampson, printing reports,	37 40
Hosea Kingman, counsel fee in	
E. H. Howard, case,	41.66
Clinton P. Howard, for use of hall,	85 00
Leonard W. Hunt, buying a horse,	1 50
A. P. Hazzard, stove and pipe,	8 00
George Hunt, return of births,	2 25
E. B. Wilbur, to pay witness fees in	
E. H. Howard case,	51 90
Daniel Perkins, office rent,	19 50
Thomas Groom & Co., Assessors book,	3 80
Samuel Hobbs & Co., for stationery,	1 00
F. S. Tolman, printing,	4 85
L. E. Hayward, care of old cemetery,	1 00
Henry Withington, care of Monument	
grounds.	5 00
Boston Herald, advertising,	1 88
J. P. Lovell & Co., Constables,	6 25
John A. Blake, fighting fire,	1 00
Geo. W. Ellis, “ “	1 00
Chas. H. Raymond, “	1 00
Enterprise Publishing Co., advertising,	4 46
Mandeville & Co., printing reward notices,	2 25
Brockton Times, advertising,	4 00
W. E. Fay, printing,	9 00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$335 20

Amount brought forward,	\$335 20
J. A. Shores, use of horse postage, and cash expense,	43 81
Chas. T. Williams, recording travel on Main St.	6 00
A. L. Alger, carting cinders around stone bound,	3 00
G. R. Drake, for oil,	40
F. W. Howard, care of old cemetery,	3 00
Howard Clark Co., returning deaths,	75
W. F. Whitmarsh, returning deaths,	50
E. B. Wilbur, for use of horse, and cash expense,	22 60
John Donesett, setting stone bound,	1 00
Edmond S. Reed, fighting fire,	80
John Peterson, for buying a horse,	1 00
Thomas & Packard, for office furniture,	33 00
S. G. Copeland, use of horse and cash, expense,	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$457 06

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS.

There has been drawn from the treasury, for schools,	\$3,954 01
For school repairs and supplies,	489 48
	<hr/>
	\$4,443 49

Appropriation for schools,	\$3,700 00
" school repairs and supplies,	500 00
Received from school fund,	216 07
" " state for Superintendent of schools,	204 17 4,620 24
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$176 75

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

There has been drawn from the treasury,		
for superintendent of schools,		\$979 15
Received from town of Raynham,	\$150 00	
“ “ “ “ East Bridgewater,	166 66	
Due “ the State	437 50	754 16
		<hr/>
Cost to the town,		\$224 99

TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOLARS.

There has been drawn from the treasury,		
for transporting scholars,		\$175 00
Appropriation,		150 00
		<hr/>
Overdrawn,		\$25 00

LIBRARY.

There has been drawn from the treasury,		
for the library,		\$398 49

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Appropriation,	\$100 00
Paid Charles R. Packard,	100 00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$3,000 00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved,	
by Road Commissioners,	2,969 66
	<hr/>
Balance	30 34

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$900 00
Paid, Charles E. Tisdale, auditor,	2 50
Charles T. Williams, “	2 50
Charles E. Tisdale, election officer,	1 50
Geo. L. Drake, election officer,	1 80
E. R. Holbrook, constable,	13 84
Jas. A. Shores, selectman assessor and overseer of poor,	236 25
E. B. Wilbur, selectman assessor and overseer of the poor,	151 25
S. G. Copeland, selectman assessor and overseer of poor,	70 50
Geo. C. Howard, services as moderator 2 years,	6 00
L. A. Flagg, constable,	9 50
Chas. H. Eagan, constable,	4 50
Charles R. Packard, town clerk,	64 52
James A. Fobes, register,	5 00
Lucius Dunbar, register,	6 00
Daniel W. Gardner, constable,	35 80
M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	12 00
E. B. Wilbur, inspector of cattle,	148 50
Geo, M. Pratt, treasurer, collector and postal cards,	207 50
A. L. LeLacheur, overseer of poor,	23 70
W. M. Gill, services with constables,	3 93
	<hr/>
	1,007 09

Due from the state one half of inspectors salary	74 25
police court Brockton, for fines,	10 00
Received from police court Brockton for fines	21 56
	<hr/>
	105 81
	<hr/>
	901 28

STATE AID.

George N. Blanchard,	\$108 00
Charles E. Churchill,	72 00
William T. Britton,	72 00
William E. Cole,	96 00
William Crockett,	48 00
Lucius Dunbar,	72 00
James P. Gallagher,	72 00
Linus E. Hayward,	84 00
Henry Hiatt,	54 00
William H. Jennings,	72 00
James H. Leonard,	72 00
Isaac H. Bates,	36 00
Andrew W. Perkins,	72 00
Nathaniel Pratt,	72 00
Horace N. Weld,	72 00
Mary E. Alger,	48 00
Mary E. Howard,	48 00
Estella E. Howard,	48 00
Seth Edson,	48 00
Mary J. Reeves,	48 00
Eliza F. Richardson,	48 00
Thomas Mason,	50 00
William B. Smith,	60 00
William E. Cobbitt,	70 00
Clarissa K. Howland,	16 00
B. Mary Dorgan,	40 00
Henry Withington,	48 00
Chas. T. Williams,	72 00
Beza Hayward,	24 00
Elizabeth Leonard,	32 00
Beza Hayward, burial,	35 00
	<hr/>
	1,809 00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in treasury Jan. 1st, 1895,	\$2,481.84
Income of school fund,	216.07
Income of dog fund,	338.09
Received from Willard Barnes Est.,	6.60
Borrowed of Plymouth County Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,944.44
Borrowed of Plymouth County Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	2,000.00
Borrowed of Plymouth County Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,000.00
Borrowed of Plymouth County Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,000.00
Town of Easton for Geo. N. Blanchard,	12.75
David R. Simmons for butcher's license,	1.00
Preston West for butcher's license,	1.00
Prescott Snell, for butcher's license,	1.00
Town of Plympton, for aid to N. Pratt,	15.33
Tax bills for 1895,	13,364.91
Town of East Bridgewater for Supt. of Schools,	166.66
Town of Raynham, for Supt. of schools,	150.00
Town of Raynham, for boundry stone,	6.00
State paupers,	10.50
Corporation tax,	520.60
National bank tax,	431.44
State Aid,	1,635.00
State tax from Brockton,	76.61
County tax from Brockton,	171.55
Jarvis Burrell, from state for School Supt.,	204.17
Interest on 1893 and 1894 taxes,	88.54
Brockton police court,	21.56
	<hr/>
	\$25,865.66

EXPENDITURES OF TREASURY.

Paid Plymouth County Safe Deposit and Trust Co.	\$4,060.00
County Tax,	1,329.60
State Tax,	600.00
Plymouth County Trust Co., note,	1,000.00
State Aid,	1,809.00
For Schools,	3,954.01
For School repairs and supplies,	489.48
For School Superintendent,	979.15
For Transportation of Pupils,	175.00
For Memorial,	100 00
For Town Officers,	1,007.09
For Incidentals,	457.06
For Library,	398.49
For Abatements,	151.95
For Poor out of House,	1,617.36
For Almshouse,	1,504.92
For Highways,	2,969.66
Cash and Uncollected Taxes,	3,262.89
	<hr/>
	\$25,865.66

Condition of Treasury January 1, 1896.

Cash on hand,	709.71
Uncollected taxes for 1893,	25.00
Uncollected taxes for 1894,	400.00
Uncollected taxes for 1895,	2,128.18
	<hr/>
	3,262.89

In obedience to the instructions of the town, the undersigned have examined the accounts of all town officers for the year ending December 31, 1895. We find all orders drawn by the Selectmen properly vouched for by receipted bills.

CHARLES E. TISDALE, }
 GEORGE S. DRAKE. } *Auditors.*

Outstanding Note against the Town,	\$1000.00
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NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

William H. Bosworth,	Edwin L. Pratt,
George Burke,	Abial Washbarn,
Charles H. Caldwell,	James S. Jones,
Charles E. Churchill,	Warren C. Kinney,
Linus E. Hayward,	Geo. H. Knapp,
Geo. C. Howard,	Seba H. Marshall,
Jonas Hartwell,	Herbert W. Packard,
Julius Hayward,	Japhet B. Packard,
Joseph A. Shores,	Joseph E. Ryder,
Albert L. Alger,	William F. Ryder,
Algernon S. Lyon,	Charles E. Tisdale,
Jacob Atwood,	Joseph Vosmus,
Geo. S. Drake,	E. B. Wilbur,
Lucius Dunbar,	Benjamin W. Stence, Jr.,
James A. Fobes.	

NAME OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1895.

Frank Copeland,	William L. Woodworth,
Chas. H. Eagan,	Arthur C. Peckham,
Fred J. Hamly,	Charles T. Williams,
Horace Bartlett,	Lorenzo A. Tower.

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE

For the support of poor,	\$1,500.00
Transportation of pupils,	225.00
schools,	3,600.00
repairs and supplies,	500.00
highways and sidewalks,	3,000.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	600.00
public lectures,	100.00
memorial service,	100.00
superintendent of schools,	250.00

The next annual town meeting will be held on Monday,
the 9th day of March.

JOSEPH A. SHORES,	}	<i>Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.</i>
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,		
SAMUEL G. COPELAND.		

REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

The Road Commissioners have approved bills to the following named persons for material and work on roads and sidewalks.

Geo. W. & E. E. Howard,	\$153.15
Wm. F. Ryder,	156.65
Prescott T. Snell,	120.35
P. O. Connor, Est.	90.00
Chas. H. Fuller,	94.50
E. B. Wilbur,	92.00
John Cashman,	62.80
John White,	57.60
Terrence Keenan,	87.20
John Luddy,	110.00
John Courtney,	45.60
Wm. Gormon,	106.60
Peter Keenan,	91.20
Thomas Hennessey,	82.60
Clinton P. Howard,	89.37
Horace Bartlett,	97.25
Geo. Hopkins,	198.75
Jas. McAnagh,	64.35
Daniel Lynch,	44.55
Patrick Keenan,	31.00
James Keenan,	22.60
Michael McCarthy,	40.60
Daniel Sullivan,	49.60
A. L. Alger,	66.25
Charles E. Leonard,	55.50
L. E. Hayward,	5.55
Albert Packard,	2.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$2,117.62

Amount brought forward,	\$2,117.62
Erland Thayer,	5.25
W. K. Dickerson,	4.45
A. J. Parker,	82.00
Michael King,	23.88
E. A. Godfrey,	8.30
Chas. A. Crocker,	8.75
Edmund Perkins,	5.00
Arthur C. Peckham,	4.80
E. E. Billings,	3.80
R. C. Bennett,	12.00
Jas. O. Alger,	12.50
L. A. Flagg,	338.11
Chas. Dorgan,	17.10
Chas. H. Eagan,	52.00
E. A. Corbett,	2.70
F. W. Howard,	11.50
John Pittsley,	26.40
Howard George,	18 20
Geo. Marshall,	2.00
Frank Hatch,	9.30
I. E. Wheeler,	3.60
Jos. C. Howard,	191.30
Geo. H. Stone,	1.00
Chas. T. Williams,	5.10
Horace Atwell,	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,969.66
Amount appropriated,	\$3,000.00
Amount expended,	2,969.66
	<hr/>
Balance of appropriation,	\$30.34

We recommend the town to raise three thousand five hundred dollars.

Inventory of property in charge of road commissioners,

7	snow plows,	\$80.00
9	shovels,	2.25
3	pick axes,	1.00
2	mattocks,	1.00
1	plow,	8.00
4	screens,	24.00
		<hr/>
		\$116.25

WILLIAM F. RYDER, }
 L. A. FLAGG, }
 JOS. H. HOWARD, }

Road Commissioners.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages Registered in West Bridgewater in 1895

- Feb. 26. Charles E. Sullivan and Iva N. Adams, both of West Bridgewater.
- April 10. Josiah A. Fuller and Josephine W. McIntire, both of West Bridgewater.
23. Frederick J. Vosmus of West Bridgewater, and Mabel Dearth of Bridgewater.
- June 5. George F. Logue and Belle B. Alger both of West Bridgewater.
18. William N. Wade of Plymouth, and Evelyn B. Alger of West Bridgewater.
21. George W. Atwood of Abington, and May D. Baker of West Bridgewater.
- July 3. Herbert C. Goodwin of East Bridgewater, and Ida L. Fisher of West Bridgewater
3. Isaac H. Bates and Flora A. Packard, both of West Bridgewater.
10. William B. Woodworth and Addie L. King, both of West Bridgewater.
18. Arthur E. Carke of West Bridgewater, and Sarah Churchill Glass of Duxbury.
23. Charles L. Bradford of West Bridgewater, and Florence W. Stillman of Abington.
- Aug. 31. Gustavus A. Peterson of West Bridgewater, and Hilma M. Johnson of Brockton.
- Nov. 24. Charles A. Gould of West Bridgewater, and Catherine R. Edgecomb of Brockton.
27. Harry A. Marshall and Ada E. DeNeves, both of West Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1895.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1889.			
Aug. 1	Elof Edlund ...	Male.....	Charles F. Edlund and Albertine Lindstrom.
1890.			
Oct. 25	Caroline Elinora Edlund.....	Female.....	Charles F. Edlund and Albertine Lindstrom.
1891.			
Sept. 10	Doris Alger Packard.....	Female.....	Allan C. Packard and Jeannette W. Burrill.
1894.			
June 10	Wesley Haskins Hammond.....	Male.....	Everett S. Hammond and Etta F. Blake.
1895.			
Feb. 9	William Edward Cobbett.....	Male.....	Anson E. Cobbett and Mabel A. Graham.
" 21	Manuel Andrada.....	Male.....	Manuel J. Andrada and Isabel Amila.
March 24	Carroll Francis Sands.....	Male.....	John Sands and Hattie E. Carter.
May 6	Allan W. Packard.....	Male.....	Allan C. Packard and Jeannette W. Burrill.
June 27	Alice A. Crosby.....	Female.....	Willard V. Crosby and Gertrude E. Sherick.
July 6	Willard Leighton Hatch.....	Male.....	Frank P. Hatch and Marcia E. Stewart.
Aug. 1	Chascez.....	Male.....	Theophile and Adele Chascez.
Sept. 10	Catherine Agnes O'Neil.....	Female.....	Stephen E. O'Neil and Margaret A. Conneys.
Sept. 20	Ruth Webster Ripley.....	Female.....	Mobry A. Ripley and Annie E. Lapham.
Oct. 4	Caroline Sophia Carlson.....	Female.....	John Carlson and Minnie Nelson.
Oct. 25	Edward McAnagh.....	Male.....	James F. McAnagh and Abbie M. Smith.
Nov. 3	(still born).....	Male.....	Chester Thayer and Cora A. Thomas.
Nov. 26	Henry Irving Wheeler.....	Male.....	Irvyng E. Wheeler and Ada W. Leach.
Dec. 2	Lottie M. Pratt.....	Female.....	Edwin L. Pratt and Mary H. Pope.
Dec. 12	Laura Ethel Wentworth.....	Female.....	Theodore F. Wentworth and Dora Yooke.
Dec. 23	Bessie Alinda Hammond.....	Female.....	Everett S. Hammond and Etta F. Blake.
Dec. 26	Warren Edgar Hunt.....	Male.....	Leonard W. Hunt and Mary A. Perkins.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1895.

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
Jan. 9	Polly Snell.....	93	2	16	Pneumonia	W. Bridgewater.	David Bartlett and Polly B. Howard.
Feb. 9	John Dewyer	67	7	25	Chronic Cystitis.....	Ireland.....	Thomas Dewyer and Eliza Walsh.
Feb. 16	Russell W. Morse.....	77	10	29	General Debility.....	Stoughton.....	Joshua Morse and Silence Wade.
Feb. 18	Rebecca C. Maxfield	91	6	14	Bronchitis	Rindge, N. H.....	Philip Thomas
Mar. 3	John Fay	64			Diabetes	Ireland	Peter Fay and Mary Ryan.
Mar. 9	Ida Belmore.....		2	18	Marasmus.....	W. Bridgewater.	Octave Belmore and Eliza Cudean.
Mar. 13	Mary R. Ryder	73	8	10	Pneumonia	W. Bridgewater.	Amasa Field and Clarissa Gannett.
Mar. 18	Martha Macomber.....	83	3	16	Paralysis	W. Bridgewater.	Edwin Howard and Sarah Cole.
Mar. 21	William O'Leary	90			Old Age	Ireland.....	James O'Leary and Hannah Luddy.
Mar. 23	Johanna Lynch	40			Valvular Dis. of Heart..	Brockton.....	John Robinson and Ellen Kendrick.
Mar. 24	Clarkson W. Richards..	57	3	6	Diabetes & Heart Dis.....	W. Bridgewater.	Ward Richards and Mehtable Brown.
April 19	Elizabeth L. Alger.....	84	5	2	Mitral Insufficiency.....	W. Bridgewater.	Thaddeus Howard and Sylvia Lothrop.
June 3	George E. Leach	44	3	20	Typhoid Malaria	Bridgewater.....	Leach and Abigail Leonard.
July 3	Herbert H. Bosworth ..	14	11	20	Scarletinal Nephritis.....	Roston	William H. Bosworth and Nancy Fuller
July 11	Sophia W. Reed	73	6	26	Mitral Insufficiency.....	New Boston, N. H.	David R. Clark and Rebecca Wilkins.
July 27	Hannah Madden	31	4	5	Consumption	W. Bridgewater.	Edward Madden and Margaret Reardon
Aug. 23	Ellen Bove	62			Consumption	Ireland.....	Thomas O'Neil and Margaret Condon.
Sept. 21	Herbert R. Lambert ..	1			Cholera Infantum	W. Bridgewater.	D. Webster Lambert Nettie M. Stiles.
Oct. 28	Hattie L. Stone	41	7	6	Phthisis Pulmonaris.....	Randolph	Gardner Mansfield & Harriet L. Derby
Nov. 4	Mary P. Dunbar	84	4	2	Pneumonia	W. Bridgewater.	William Dunbar and Sarah Snow.
Nov. 7	Reza Hayward	77	3	23	Old Age & Starvation.....	Bridgewater.....	Otis Hayward and Betsy Parrish.
Nov. 9	Edgar N. Soder	77	10	26	Miscitanea Tuberculosis	Brockton.....	Carl J. Soder and Lottie E. Lind.
Dec. 1	Hannah O. Hartwell ..	69	8	8	Jandice & Dis. of Liver	Bridgewater.....	Howland Holmes and Hannah Oldham
Dec. 5	Joanna Donavan.....	59	8		Hemorrhage of Bladder	Ireland.....	William O'Leary and Margaret Fraher
Dec. 16	Helen P. Taylor.....	46	8	24	Heart Disease.....	W. Bridgewater.	Melvin O. and Mary A. Perkins.
Dec. 29	William C. Sawyer	4	1	6	Peritonitis.....	Brockton.....	Wm. L. Sawyer & Gertrude H. Stickney

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth ss:

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater
in the County of Plymouth, Greeting:*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the Ninth of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

ART. 1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question: "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the Selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will raise one hundred dollars for public lectures.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 9. To see if the town will appropriate money for necessary transportation of pupils to Grammar school.

REPORT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The additions to the library during 1895 comprise 207 volumes, making the total number of books on the shelves 4,453

The number of books loaned and the classes to which they belong is as follows, viz:—

Agriculture,	2
Art,	8
Biography,	89
Fiction,	2,309
General Literature,	153
History,	82
Humorous Works,	56
Juvenile Works,	799
Magazines,	833
Poetry,	78
Works of Reference,	24
Science,	45
Travels,	68
Religion and Theology,	4
	<hr/>
	4,550

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

Cash from Town Treasurer,	\$398.49
Horace Atwell (for book),	1.00
Sales of catalogues and cards and fines,	14.55
Balance to new account	.92
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	\$414.96

Expenditures.

Estes & Lauriat,	177.15
Librarians's salary,	104.36
Wm. Evarts Benjamin,	50.00
History of Boston,	18.00
J. H. Lamb (Johnson's Cyclopaedea),	21.00
Magazines,	30.22
Postage, express, oil, etc,	8.23
Peerless Reciter,	1.75
Songs that never die,	2.75
Juvenile Books	1.50
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	\$414.96

Respectfully submitted for the trustees.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1895 the following were members of the committee:

J. A. SHORES and Mrs M. K. CROSBY for three years.

G. C. HOWARD and W. E. BOSWORTH for two years.

Mrs. A. S. LELACHEUR and H. M. WILLARD for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows:

J. A. SHORES, *Chairman*.

M. K. CROSBY. *Secretary*.

G. C. HOWARD and W. H. BOSWORTH. *Committee on Repairs*.

L. A. FLAGG, D. W. GARDNER, H. KINNEY and C. H. EAGAN, *Truant Officers*.

The schools were assigned as follows:

North and South to Mr. Shores.

Cochesett to Mr. Howard.

Centre to Mrs LeLacheur.

East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.

Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

H. M. Willard and M. K. Crosby were chosen committee on Music.

To J. A. Shores, A. S. LeLacheur and M. K. Crosby was assigned the examination of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby was appointed agent for school supplies

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS

Paid Miss E. F. Jordan,	12 weeks,	\$144 00
Miss E. E. Wilson,	10 "	100 00
Miss E. A. Morrow,	36 "	432 00
Miss I. S. Wood,	36 "	360 00
Miss M. J. Dunbar,	9 "	108 00
Miss W. A. Holmes,	36 "	360 00
Miss R. L. MacDonald,	36 "	375 00
Miss M. L. Morse,	26 "	228 50
Miss H. Turner,	36 "	339 00
Miss M. A. Dewyre,	37 "	422 00
Miss M. C. Keith,	21 "	210 00
Miss M. I. Packard,	15 "	135 00
Miss E. Prindell,	15 "	180 00
Mr. E. J. Sawyer, (music)		125 37
Conveyance of Music Teacher,		61 25
		<hr/>
		\$3,580 12

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$14 00
Cochesett	25 00
Centre,	28 00
South,	14 00
East,	14 00
Matfield,	14 00
North,	14 00
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\$123 00	

TUITION, MAPS, APPARATUS, ETC.

Maps,	\$26 00
Easton for tuition, one pupil,	6 00
7 Gem sharpeners,	21 00
Periodicals for Grammer schools,	6.06
	<hr/>
	\$59 06

FUEL.

Paid J. E. Ryder, 2 cords hard wood and labor,	\$12 00
S. H. Marshall, 5 cords hard, 1 cord pine,	29 00
E. T. Snell, 5 cords hard, 2 cords pine,	33 00
S. G. Copeland 3 cords hard wood,	15 00
E. Thayer, 3 cords oak, and labor,	17 00
B. Copeland, 2 cords pine wood,	8 00
M. K. Crosby, 1½ cords pine,	6 00
E. H. Lothrop, 8,000 lbs. coal,	23 00
Albert Raymond, labor,	2 25
Caleb Keene, labor,	10 25
E. A. Godfrey, labor,	10 00
E. Pittsley, labor,	15 00
G. J. Kingman, labor,	30
H. Withington, labor,	16 00
L. E. Hayward, labor,	3 83
	<hr/>
	200 63

Expenditures.

Teacher's wages,	\$3,580 12
Fuel,	200 63
Janitors,	123 00
Tuition,	6 00
Maps and Apparatus,	53 06
	<hr/>
	\$3,962 81

Receipts.

Town grant,	3,700 00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	216 07
On account of District Supervision,	166 66
	<hr/>
	\$4,082 73

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid University Pub. Co., readers,	\$3 00
J. L. Hammett, globes, readers and dictionaries,	14 61
J. S. Hammett, general supplies,	44 92
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., readers,	8 25
American Book Co., copy books and histories,	12 09
Leach, Sewell & Co., language lessons,	3 00
E. E. Babb & Co., general supplies,	43 81
Ginn & Co., arithmetics,	46 06
Ginn & Co., readers and music books,	13 42
Ginn & Co., Frye's primary geographies,	48 00
Ginn & Co., Frye's complete geographies,	40 00
	<hr/>
	\$277 16

New Supplies on hand Dec. 31, 1895.

Davis' readers, geographies and arithmetics,	27 83
Copy and drawing books, spelling blanks,	7 98
Paper, pencils, globes, crayons, etc.,	10 14
	<hr/>
	\$45 95
 Inventory of stock on hand Jan. 1, 1895,	 50 42
Amount drawn from treasury,	277 16
Sale of school books,	3 00
Inventory of new stock, Dec. 31. 1895	45 95
Supplies furnished schools,	281 63

REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid Jarvis Burrill, printing and stock,	\$13 55
Minot Curtis, 2 gals. liquid slating,	8 00
Fence at Centre, labor and stock,	27 38
U. K. Leach, labor and stock.	11 20
J. H. Fairbanks, labor and stock,	18 19
Music board and Case for charts,	7 98
Postage and express,	14 45
Car fare and small incidentals,	19 51

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	6 78
Cochesett,	28 25
South,	7 06
Centre,	21 63
East,	12 24
Matfield,	6 50
North,	3 80
	<hr/>
	\$206 52

Whole amount of repairs,	206 52
Cost of school supplies,	277 16
Town grant for repairs and supplies.	500 00

The average membership in the schools for the year has been 236.14, and the cost of supplies furnished by the town has been \$281 63 or \$1.19 cents per scholar.

The school census for May 1, 1895, gave 280 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these 236 were in the common schools, 6 in the Howard, 8 (all above 14 years) at work, 1 incompetent, 5 sick, 4 out for other reasons, and 20 young and not yet in school.

Professor Willard has furnished the following High school statistics.

Number admitted in Sept. 1895	7
Number attending Fall term,	26
Number of different pupils for the year,	32
Percentage of attendance for Fall term,	98

CALENDAR FOR 1896.

WINTER TERM, Jan. 6 to March 20, 1895. 11 weeks.

Vacation 2 weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 6 to June 12, 10 weeks.

Vacation 12 weeks.

FALL TERM, Sept 8 to Dec. 18. 15 weeks

Recess. Thanksgiving week after Wednesday,

Vacation 2 weeks.

WINTER TERM. 1897, Jan. 4th.

Changes in this will be made to meet special needs in any school.

The increase in the cost of supplies per pupil, is due to the general distribution of new arithmetics and geographies during the year.

As there was no pressing need of unusual repairs in the school buildings, it was thought best to make such payments for the new books, that the balance could be paid from the ordinary grant for supplies.

We are now provided with text books well up to date in all the chief branches of study.

By the resignation of Superintendant R. D. McKeen, it became necessary, at their annual meeting in April, for the Joint Committee of our Union School District, to select his successor, and Mr. George C. Howard of our town was chosen to the office.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Joint Committee, and presented to Mr. McKeen.

Whereas—By the withdrawal of Roscoe D. McKeen from the supervision of [the Union School District of East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater and Raynham, after a service of three years, beginning with the formation of the district; we have lost a devoted and efficient superintendent.—

Resolved—That we tender Mr. McKeen our grateful acknowledgment of his faithful labors in organizing the work of the district, and in elevating our schools and increasing their efficiency to a marked degree during the comparatively short period of his connection with the district.

Resolved—That our hearty good wishes for his success will accompany him to his new field of labor.

Our schools have not been unfavorably affected by this change, which testifies to their good condition at the time of the transfer, and also to the large practical acquaintance with public schools, possessed by the new superintendent.

That this important change could be accomplished with so little disturbance in school work, speaks well for the district system.

By an agreement between the three committees of the district, each town in turn assumes the payment of the superintendent's salary for the year, receiving from the other towns from time to time their share of said salary, and at the end of the district year (May 20th) the money allowed by the state to the district.

The town accounts show that our town has had charge of the payment this year.

The report of our superintendent will furnish all needful information respecting the schools.

It will be seen that we ask for one hundred dollars less in the general appropriation for schools, but we recommend some increase in the money to be paid for transportation of pupils.

For the support of schools,	\$3,600 00
For repairs and incidentals,	300 00
For text-books and supplies,	200 00

At the annual meeting two members of the committee should be elected, for three years.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. SHORES,
M. K. CROSBY,
A. S. LELACHEUR,
W. H. BOSWORTH,
H. M. WILLARD,

School Committee.

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Jan. 24th, 1896.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the School Committee of West Bridgewater:

I herewith submit my annual report of the schools of this town for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1895.

Number of schools in town,	9
Number of teachers required,	9
Number of teachers employed during the year,	
including music teacher,	12
Number of schools having different teachers,	2
Number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years as shown by the census of May, 1895,	280
Number between the ages of 8 and 14 years as shown by census,	170
Number of different pupils of all ages enrolled on school registers,	306
Greatest number enrolled in any school, (Matfield)	49
*Least number enrolled in any school, (Cochesett Grammer),	24
Average membership,	236.14
Centre Grammer, 23.96;	Centre Primary 31.7;
Cochesett Grammer, 30.69;	Chochesett Primary 26.7;
East Grammer, 17.64;	Matfield Primary 37.74;
North, Grammer, 19.2;	South Primary 19.35;
Jerusalem 25.3;	

* In reading the above table, one should keep in mind the provisions of the state law governing school registers. A child enrolled upon the register of one school is not to be enrolled, even if transferred, upon the enrollment page of another. By this rule, the enrollment of the Jerusalem school for the year is 46, while that of the Cochesett Grammar school is 24. By the report for the month ending March 22, before the transportation of scholars to Cochesett began, the membership of the Jerusalem school was 38, while that of the Cochesett Grammar school was 24; by report for the month ending Dec. 20, the membership of the Jerusalem school was 27, while the membership of the Cochesett Grammar school was 42,

Average attendance,	218.61
Centre Grammer, 22.3 ;	Centre Primary, 28.58 ;
Cochesett Grammer, 31.16	Cochesett Primary, 24.82 ;
East, 16.26 ;	Matfield, 34.45 ;
South, 17.38 ;	North, 18.15 ;
	Jerusalem, 25.3
Average attendance per room,	24.3
Per cent. of average attendance,	.925
Centre Grammar, 94.8 ;	Centre Primary, .899 ;
Cochesett Grammar, .952 ;	Cochesett Primary, .92 ;
East, .92 ;	North, .946 ;
South, .894 ;	
Matfield, .922 ;	Jerusalem, .914.
Per cent. of average attendance, 1894,	.929
Number of children in attendance over 15 years of age,	6
Number of children in attendance under 5 years of age,	2
Number of children in attendance between 8 and 14 yrs.	189
Number of visits made by truant officer,	0
Number of truants found,	0
Number employment certificates granted,	5

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

When I took charge of the schools in May, I found all of them with but one exception, in charge of well trained and efficient teachers, some of whom had held their position for several years. West Bridgewater is extremely fortunate in that she has been able to secure the continuous service of so many of her teachers. Nothing so detracts from the efficiency of a school as frequent changes in instructors, for, all things being equal, the best results are to be obtained by those teachers who, thoroughly familiar with their pupils environment, are able to give their whole time to the work of teaching. There have been but two changes in the corps of teachers during the past year. Miss Mary Cary Keith of the North school, having resigned to accept a school in Brockton, was succeeded by Miss Maud Packard; and Miss Elizabeth

Prindal has taken the position at the Centre Grammar, made vacant by the resignation of Miss E. Florence Jordan.

The town, at its last annual meeting, made an appropriation for the transferring of the pupils in the VII and VIII grades from Jerusalem to Cochesett; although it was found to be an impossibility to pay for the transportation within the appropriation, yet it was found, at the beginning of the spring term, that the Jerusalem school had grown so large that transportation was necessary. The seating capacity of the school room had been exceeded and the number of pupils distributed through eight grades, rendered it impossible for any teacher to do acceptable work. Except in the matter of cost, the transportation to Cochesett has been a pronounced success. The grading of the Jerusalem school has been much improved and the improvement in the quality and quantity of the work accomplished has been marked.

An agreement between Prof. Willard of the Howard High School, and the school committee was entered into last June, by which admittance to the high school was made contingent upon the successful passing of the final examinations given to the pupils of the eighth grade by Prof. Willard; thus doing away with special examinations in September.

During the year I have made frequent visits to the high school and have reached the conclusion that the people of the town should be proud of the school. I doubt if its equal, either in the efficiency of its instructors or in the studious spirit of its pupils, can be found outside of our largest cities. The thanks of the entire community are due to Prof. Willard for the untiring zeal with which he has worked for the success of the school.

WRITING

The most unsatisfactory results now obtained in our schools are in writing, and those results are especially unsatisfactory in the lower grades. A bad habit of wrting, once formed, is

broken up with great difficulty, and unless good habits are formed in early years, it is almost impossible to produce good writers. One marked cause of bad writing is the use of slates in the lower grades. The average child grasps a slate pencil with great tenacity and scratches his letters *into* not *on* the surface. The pencil is held so rigidly that freedom of motion is impossible and stiff and awkward writing is the result. Paper is so cheap, costing but twelve cents for a package of five hundred sheets, each sheet eight by nine inches in dimension, that I believe its substitution for slates would be advisable. It would cost but little more, would lead to an immediate improvement in writing, and would contribute much to the orderliness and quiet of the school room.

I desire to renew the recommendation of Mr. McKee that the committee adopt the plan of equipping one school room each year with slate blackboards. The boards of many of our school rooms, notwithstanding recent repairs are in a bad condition. The cost of redressing the boards is a considerable item yearly and should, in my judgment, be avoided.

MUSIC.

The progress of our schools in music, during the past year has been very satisfactory. The pupils of the upper grades can read and sing ordinary music at sight and there has been a marked improvement in the roundness and fullness of their tones.

The special teacher of music, Mr. E. F. Sawyer, is very happy in his dealings with both teachers and pupils. He evidently enjoys teaching music and his pupils enjoy being taught. For the details of his work, I refer you to his appended report.

REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC.

*Mr. George C. Howard, Superintendent of Schools, West
Bridgewater, Mass.*

Dear Sir :

The work in music during the past year has been progressing steadily and satisfactorily and in all the schools there has been more or less improvement. Teachers and pupils are much interested and seem to enjoy the work. To the faithful conscientious work of the teachers should be given the greater part of the credit for the excellent results that have been obtained. I think the town is particularly fortunate in having been obliged to make so few changes in its corps of teachers.

In May, an exhibition of the work, in Grange hall, gave many of the citizens of the town some idea of what had been done. Since that time great improvement has been made.

Careful attention has been given to the quality of tone, to style and expression, to rhythm, and to the training of the mind without which reading music well, is impossible. Many who value the study of music, in the training of the ear and voice, and heartily advocate it for physiological and aesthetic culture, are ignorant of or fail to discern its use as a means of mental discipline. In this respect it is not second to any branch of school work. Singing combines science and art. To sing well requires a quick eye, a correct ear, well developed lungs, well-trained facile organs of speech, and a quick wit. Surely, a study that tends to accomplish so much deserves an important place in the education of the young.

The pupils in the grammar schools have mastered all of the material contained in the Second Music Reader and if the interest is to be maintained and progress to continue they should be provided with more advanced work.

It would be a pleasant incentive to increased effort if we could see the parents of the pupils more often in the schools. They are always welcome and I would like to know more of them personally and consult with them in regard to the musical welfare of the pupils.

Permit me in closing to express my appreciation of the kindness shown me by the Superintendent and Committee, and for the hearty support they have given me in carrying out my plans, which has made my work, pleasant to me and I hope profitable to its schools.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND F. SAWYER.

Supervisor of Music.

Boston, Jan. 1, 1896.

NATURE STUDY.

Your superintendent does not find himself in favor of the plan, now being followed by some educators, of overloading the school curriculum with studies that may well be left for individual or advanced research. When a pupil cannot tell with certainty what $\frac{1}{4}$ of $\frac{1}{3}$ is, and is hazy as to the exact location of Paris, it is, in my estimation, a waste of time to instruct him as to the number of breathing holes in the body of a butterfly, or the difference between terminal and axillary buds.

Instructions in nature study should be correlated with other subjects; for instance, when studying the Gulf states, I would have the pupils learn as much as possible about the cotton plant and sugar cane, and instructions as to the formation of coal and iron, may well be given in the study of the Middle Atlantic States.

While I desire that children should be taught to observe, while I believe that in their walks they should be taught to look for new plants and flowers, and should be given their names by their teachers, while I am in sympathy with the

use of the knowledge so gained as a basis for much of their work in composition and language, still nature study needs to be watched carefully lest it become an end rather than a means and, like the camel in the Arab's tent, crowd out the rightful occupant.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you and my fellow town's people for the cordial assistance given me in the discharge of my duties; such assistance has made my work very pleasant. I wish, however, that more of the parents would visit the schools and acquaint themselves with the conditions there prevailing. The teacher and the parent should be a unit in the guidance of the child, and such unity of action, can only be gained by consultation and mutual advice.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE C. HOWARD.

Jan. 15, 1896.

ANNUAL REPORTS

. . . . OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

. . . . OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER

. . . . FOR THE

YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1897.

TAUNTON, MASS.:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF J. S. SAMPSON,
1897.

ANNUAL REPORTS

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. . . FOR THE . . .

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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1896.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF POOR, AND ASSESSORS.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR.

SAMUEL G. COPELAND,

CHARLES E. TISDALE.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MRS. M. K. CROSBY,

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

GEORGE C. HOWARD,

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,

WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH.

CAROLINE H. COPELAND.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

CHARLES R. PACKARD,

MRS. CHARLOTTE A. WILLIAMS,

MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN,

MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,

CURTIS EDDY.

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS

WILLIAM F. RYDER.

CONSTABLES.

DANIEL W. GARDNER,

ELLIS B. HOLBROOK,

HENRY G. KINNEY,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

PRESON WEST,

CHAS. H. EGAN.

WILLIAM S. BRAINARD.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

FIELD DRIVERS.

CHARLES H. EGAN,

FRED J. VOSMUS.

FENCE VIEWERS.

E. B. WILRUR

S. G. COPELAND,

C. E. TISDALE.

MEASURERS OF LUMBER.

MALBOY A. RIPLEY,

SAMUEL L. RYDER,

CLINTON P. HOWARD.

DANIEL B. DAVIS.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

FRANK H. JONES,

CHAS. R. PACKARD,

HENRY C. KINNEY.

CLINTON P. HOWARD.

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FORES,

HORACE BARTLETT,

CURTIS EDDY.

AUDITORS.

GEORGE S. DRAKE,

GEORGE F. LOGUE.

POUND KEEPER.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

PUBLIC WEAIGHER.

MICHAEL LOGUE.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town
January 1, 1897, is respectfully submitted:

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION.

As Assessed May 1, 1896.

Valuation of real estate,	\$863,901.00
Value of personal estate,	147,140.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,011,041.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$700.00	
County tax,	1,329.60	
	<hr/>	\$2,029.60
Town grant,	\$11,505.00	
Overlay,	498.76	
	<hr/>	\$12,003.76
		<hr/>
Total tax,		\$14,033.36
Rate of tax, \$13.00 per \$1,000.		Poll tax, \$2.00

Number of polls,	444
acres of land,	9162
dwelling houses,	381
horses,	373
cows,	670
sheep,	27
swine,	114
young stock,	96
fowls,	1218

APPROPRIATIONS.

Revolutionary markers,	\$30.00
For support of schools,	3,600.00
school supplies and repairs,	500.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	600.00
memorial service,	100.00
transportation of scholars,	225.00
school superintendent,	250.00
Cochesett cemetery,	100.00
supplies for High School,	200.00
	<hr/>
	\$11,505.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Value of New Almshouse and wood-house	\$5,000.00
town farm,	3,500.00
personal property,	2,460.00
eight school-houses,	12,300.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	50.00
road scraper,	100.00

E. BRADFORD WILBUR, SAMUEL G. COPELAND, CHARLES E. TISDALE,	} Assessors.
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REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE JAN. 1st, 1897.

corn fodder,	\$10.00
18 tons English hay,	324.00
8 tons meadow and swale hay,	80.00
corn and other grain,	86.00
8 bushels beans,	12.00
13 cows,	550.00
1 horse,	100.00
27 fowls,	18.00
10 bushels pop corn,	15.00
2 bushels peas,	3.00
potatoes,	40.00
50 bushels turnips,	12.50
1 bushel beets,	.50
4 barrels apples,	6.00
400 lbs pork,	32.00
35 lbs. lard,	2.80
50 lbs butter,	10.00
2-3 barrel flour,	3.00
groceries,	10.00
75 lbs. sugar,	3.00
tea and coffee,	7.50
3 pork barrels,	2.00
soap and oil,	4.50
hay knife,	1.25
express wagon,	35.00
step ladder,	1.25
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenter's tools,	9.00
1-2 barrel graham flour,	1.00
15 lbs rolled oats,	.50
200 lbs hams and shoulders,	20.00
650 lbs beef,	39.00
beef hide,	4.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,446.80

Amount brought forward,	\$1,446.80
hay cutter,	4.00
3 stoves,	12.00
grind stone,	4.00
wheel hoe,	6.00
household furniture,	216.00
tinware,	11.00
crockery, etc.,	24.00
3 churns,	8.00
wooden ware,	15.00
beds and bedding,	115.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
2 hay wagons,	50.00
1 covered wagon,	50.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
1 pung,	8.00
harnesses,	30.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	6.00
robes and blankets,	4.00
mowing machine and rake,	40.00
6 plows, 3 harrows, and other tools,	70.00
horse sled,	7.00
manure and ashes,	120.00
coal,	75.00
2 ladders,	3.00
washing machine,	10.00
wood and lumber,	60.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,453.80
Inventory January 1st, 1896,	2,512.90
	<hr/>
Loss in inventory,	59.10

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1896,	\$73 66
Received for milk,	1,174 76
stock,	218 95
potatoes,	5 75
eggs and poultry,	8 40
vegetables,	40 56
grain bags,	2 38
Drawn from the Treasury for	
L. H. Adams,	33 25
G. R. Drake,	176 45
E. W. Holmes,	4 12
E. B. Wilbur,	93 50
C. E. Tisdale & Co.,	3 50
E. J. Bean,	156 25
	<hr/>
	\$1,991 53

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	\$34 85
meat,	88 29
grain,	437 02
coal,	72 16
butter, cheese,	49 25
medicine and doctor bills,	30 24
fish,	3 68
clothing,	21 61
repairs,	56 38
labor,	265 81
seeds,	11 65
hay,	15 20
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$1,086 14

Amount brought forward,	\$1,086 14
Paid for fertilizer,	85 00
lumber,	7 93
furniture and bedding,	16 14
stock,	106 50
tools and hardware,	38 11
cash to paupers,	2 25
tobacco,	9 38
smithwork,	17 18
tea and coffee,	13 74
groceries,	86 61
shoes,	8 65
harness,	23 00
warden's salary,	400 00
soap and oil,	4 50
ice,	5 60
salt,	3 80
crockery and tinware,	18 56
table linen, etc.,	6 83
Cash on hand,	51 61
	<hr/>
	\$1,991 53

COST OF SUPPORTING POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from treasury per almshouse account,	\$463 67	
Cash on hand Loss in Inventory,	59 10	
	<hr/>	\$522 77
Cash on hand,	\$51 61	
Due from Otis T. Gould for support of George L. Edson,	152 28	
	<hr/>	203 89
		<hr/>
		\$318 88

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	83	50
Albert Staples,	54	52
Conn. Sullivan,	62	22
Geo. B. Randall,	70	52
Michael Ryan,	48	52
Ansel Alger,	69	52
Sarah B. Howard,	64	52
Geo. S. Edson,	84	48
Daniel Lynch,	47	3

The warden during the year has lodged and fed (116) one hundred and sixteen tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Frank Brown,	\$5 00
Frank Amsden,	59 13
John Reeves,	1 00
Mrs. Eugene Hammell,	3 50
Harriet Packard,	32 50
Abigail Fadden,	59 25
Thomas Leonard,	2 00
John Golden,	27 00
Nathaniel Pratt,	14 75
Mrs. E. J. Packard,	169 92
Geo. W. Ellis,	28 60
John A. W. Alger,	3 65
John Robbins and child,	112 38
Hannah Harvey,	136 96
Mrs. Kinney,	64 00
Arthur P. Packard,	113 85
Anson E. Cobbitt,	7 14
Fred Leonard,	180 00
Merton Churchill's children,	130 00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,148 63

Amount brought forward,	\$1,148 63
George Dunbar's children,	156 00
Charles E. Fisher,	42 21
Frank Fadden's children,	122 50
John Blake,	13 50
Daniel Lynch's children,	8 00

Total cost,	\$1,490 84
-------------	------------

Due from Plympton, for N. Pratt,	\$14 75	
The State, for Mrs. Hammell,	3 50	
The State, for Geo. W. Ellis,	28 60	
The State, for Frank Amsden,	57 13	
Natick, for Frank Brown,	5 00	
The State, for John Golden,	27 00	
The State, for John Blake,	13 50	
		<hr/>
		\$149 48

Cost to the town,	\$1,341 36
-------------------	------------

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	} Overseers of the Poor.
S. G. COPELAND,	
CHARLES E. TISDALE,	

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,	\$600 00
Paid Henry Withington, for sawing wood,	1 25
Henry Withington, care monument grounds,	5 00
Henry Withington, care old cemetery,	2 00
E. L. Brown, surveying Main street and making plans for the same,	344 00
E. B. Wilbur, wood for office,	2 50
E. S. LeLacheur, return of births,	50
J. S. Sampson, printing reports,	38 25
G. M. Pratt, rent of hall,	150 00
S. L. Ryder, book cases for school supplies,	48 41
W. E. Fay, printing,	16 00
Thomas Groom & Co., assessors' books,	2 75
Fred Hanson, head stones for poor,	36 75
C. H. Egan, burying a dog,	1 50
Sweet & Folsom, counsel fee,	10 00
W. E. Kingsley, care of old cemetery,	2 00
L. E. Hayward, care of old cemetery,	1 50
G. M. Pratt, postal cards,	7 50
W. A. Boyden, aid to constables,	4 09
H. S. Porter, aid to constables,	2 21
M. B. Allen, aid to constables,	3 00
C. F. Walker, aid to constables,	4 18
Geo. Wilbur, repairing old office,	5 62
L. A. Flagg, fire tools,	1 75
G. R. Drake, telephone,	30
D. W. Gardner, use of horse,	3 50
Howard Clark & Co., returning death,	1 00
F. S. Howard, returning deaths,	4 50
C. L. McCann, returning deaths,	1 25
E. B. Wilbur, use of horse, cash expense and postage,	35 35
	<hr/>
	\$736 66

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$900 00
Paid Curtis Eddy, registrar for 1895-1896,	11 10
C. E. Tisdale, auditor,	2 50
G. S. Drake, auditor,	2 50
C. E. Tisdale, election officer 1895,	1 50
Frank Copeland, election officer 1895,	2 00
W. C. Kinney, inspector of cattle,	18 90
A. C. Peckham, inspector of cattle,	9 82
D. R. Simmons, inspector of cattle,	266 06
J. A. Shores, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	27 28
M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	15 00
E. R. Holbrook, constable,	7 32
W. S. Brainard, constable,	26 51
D. W. Gardner, constable,	42 06
L. A. Flagg, constable,	11 32
C. H. Egan, constable,	1 00
E. B. Wilbur, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	218 50
S. G. Copeland, selectman, assessor and over- seer of the poor,	113 90
C. E. Tisdale, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	66 00
C. R. Packard, town clerk,	67 39
James A. Fobes, registrar,	6 75
A. S. LeLacheur, overseer of the poor,	4 95
A. C. Peckham, election officer,	1 80
G. S. Drake, election officer,	1 80
G. M. Pratt, treasurer and collector,	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,125 96
Due from the state one-half of in- spector's salary,	\$147 39
Received from police court, Brockton, for fines,	135 00
	<hr/>
	282 39
	<hr/>
	843 57

STATE AID.

George N. Blanchard,	\$93 00
Charles E. Churchill,	74 00
William T. Britton,	72 00
William E. Cole,	96 00
William Crockett,	47 00
Lucius Dunbar,	12 00
James P. Gallagher,	72 00
Linus E. Hayward,	84 00
Henry Hiatt,	49 00
William H. Jennings,	72 00
James H. Leonard,	72 00
Isaac H. Bates,	36 00
Andrew W. Perkins,	72 00
Nathaniel Pratt,	72 00
Horace N. Weld,	60 00
Mary E. Alger,	48 00
Mary E. Howard,	40 00
Estella E. Howard,	48 00
Seth Edson,	48 00
Mary J. Reeves,	46 00
Eliza F. Richardson,	8 00
Thomas Mason,	18 00
William B. Smith,	60 00
William E. Cobbitt,	66 00
James P. Lincoln,	40 00
Henry Withington,	44 00
Charles T. Williams,	60 00
Elizabeth Leonard,	48 00
Thomas Mason, burial,	27 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,584 00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in treasury January 1st, 1896,	\$3,262 89
Income of dog fund,	345 91
Income of school fund,	369 20
Borrowed of Horatio Howard,	1,000 00
Received from town of Easton for Frank Peck,	4 16
Received from town of Plympton for N. Pratt,	50 76
Received from town of Raynham for C. E. Miller,	20 60
Rec'd from Sheriff Hammond, fine from Frank Peck,	10 00
Borrowed from Horatio Howard,	500 00
Corporation tax,	479 24
Received from police court Brockton, for fines,	135 00
Borrowed from James W. Longstreet & Co.,	1,951 71
Borrowed from James W. Longstreet & Co.,	1,968 51
State paupers,	40 27
Rec'd from R. O. Harris from state for school sup't,	750 00
Received from R. O. Harris, $\frac{1}{3}$ of \$500, for schools,	166 68
Rec'd from East Bridgewater, for school sup't,	350 00
Received from tax bills for 1896,	14,033 36
Rec'd from Channing F. Dunbar, butcher's license,	1 00
Rec'd from T. Prescott Snell for butcher's license,	1 00
Received from national bank tax,	449 68
Received from state aid,	1,809 00
Received from interest on 1894-1895 taxes,	83 80
Rec'd from town of Raynham for school sup't,	150 00
	<hr/>
	\$27,932 77

EXPENDITURES.

Paid James W. Longstreet & Co.,	\$3,920 22
James W. Longstreet & Co., interest,	79 78
county tax,	1,329 60
state tax,	700 00
Plymouth Co. Safe Deposit & Trust Co.,	944 44
Plymouth County Safe Deposit & Trust Co., interest,	127 11
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward	\$7,101 15

Amount brought forward,	\$7,101 15
Paid for state aid,	1,584 00
school supplies,	253 50
school repairs,	263 87
superintendent,	1,500 00
transportation of pupils,	288 00
Revolutionary markers,	30 00
memorial,	100 00
almshouse,	467 07
Cochesett cemetery,	83 00
library,	316 60
highways,	3,517 98
poor out of the house,	1,490 84
incidentals,	736 66
abatements,	117 18
town officers,	1,125 96
schools,	4,091 35
cash and uncollected taxes,	4,865 61
	<hr/>
	\$27,932 77

Condition of Treasury January 1, 1897.

Cash on hand,	\$1,861 46
Uncollected taxes for 1894,	150 00
Uncollected taxes for 1895,	450 00
Uncollected taxes for 1896,	2,404 15
	<hr/>
	\$4,865 61

In obedience to the instructions of the town, the undersigned have examined the accounts of all town officers for the year ending December 31, 1896. We find all orders drawn by the Selectmen properly vouched for by receipted bills.

GEORGE F. LOGUE, } *Auditors.*
 GEORGE S. DRAKE, }

Outstanding Notes against the Town,	\$1,500 00
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NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

William H. Bosworth,
George Burke,
Charles H. Caldwell,
Linus E. Hayward,
Jonas Hartwell,
Julius Hayward,
Albert L. Alger,
Jacob Atwood,
George S. Drake,
Charles W. Elliott,
Joseph Vosmus,
Charles T. Howard,
Benjamin W. Spence, Jr.,
Joseph C. Howard,
W. H. Washburn,

Edwin L. Pratt,
Curtis Eddy,
Samuel G. Copeland,
Warren C. Kinney,
George H. Knapp,
Seba H. Marshall,
Herbert W. Packard,
Japhet B. Packard,
William F. Ryder,
Charles E. Tisdale,
Henry W. Leach,
L. E. Copeland,
Edwin H. Thayer,
Charles H. Fuller,
Ellis R. Holbrook.

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1896.

Abiel Washburn,
James S. Jones,
James A. Fobes,

Joseph E. Ryder,
E. Bradford Wilbur,
Algernon S. Lyon,

Fred. A. Perkins.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS.

There has been drawn from the treasury for schools,		\$4,091 35
For school repairs and supplies,		517 37
		<hr/>
		\$4,608 72
Appropriation for schools,	\$3,600 00	
Appropriation for school repairs and supplies,	500 00	
Received from school fund,	369 20	
Received from State on account of dis- trict supervision,	166 68	
	<hr/>	\$4,635 88
Balance,		<hr/>
		\$27 16

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

There has been drawn from the treasury for superintendent of schools,		\$1,500 00
Received from town of Raynham,	\$150 00	
Rec'd from town of East Bridgewater,	350 00	
Received from the State,	750 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,250 00
Cost to the town,		<hr/>
		\$250 00

TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOLARS.

There has been drawn from the treasury for transporting scholars,	\$288 00
Appropriation,	225 00
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$63 00

LIBRARY.

There has been drawn from the treasury for the library,	\$316 60
--	----------

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Appropriation,	\$100 00
Paid Charles R. Packard,	100 00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$3,500 00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved by superintendent of streets,	3,517 98
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$17 98

COCHESSETT CEMETERY.

Appropriation,	\$100 00
Paid W. E. Kingsley,	\$16 00
John Tallon,	21 25
Andrew Monson,	18 00
Joseph Vosmus,	21 25
Howard George,	3 00
L. A. Flagg,	3 50
	<hr/>
	\$83 00
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$17 00

REVOLUTIONARY MARKERS.

Appropriation,	\$30 00
Amount expended,	30 00

HEADSTONES FOR DECEASED POOR.

Appropriation in 1895,	\$50 00
Amount expended,	36 75
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$13 25

At a meeting of the selectmen, held at their office on March 9th, William F. Ryder was appointed superintendent of streets.

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE:

For the support of poor,	\$1,500 00
transportation of pupils,	275 00
schools,	3,600 00
repairs and supplies,	500 00
highways and sidewalks,	3,000 00
town officers,	900 00
incidentals,	600 00
public lectures,	100 00
memorial service,	100 00
superintendent of schools,	250 00

The next annual town meeting will be held on Monday, the 1st day of March.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	}	<i>Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.</i>
SAMUEL G. COPELAND,		
CHARLES E. TISDALE,		

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

The Superintendent of Streets has approved bills to the following named persons for material and work on the roads and sidewalks:

George G. Hopkins,	\$393 50
L. A. Flagg,	253 15
Samuel Hetherington,	94 60
John Luddy,	144 00
John Cashman,	156 95
Patrick Keenan, 2d,	70 40
John Courtney,	125 60
Thomas Hennessey,	164 60
John Duguid,	40 00
Charles E. Leonard,	157 45
Albert L. Alger,	104 45
Elmer E. Howard,	102 85
Charles H. Fuller,	108 00
Dennis Sullivan,	54 40
E. B. Wilbur,	10 22
Daniel Lynch,	73 80
Horace Bartlett,	124 00
T. Prescott Snell,	122 00
Clinton P. Howard,	117 40
P. O'Connor estate,	99 45
Terence Keenan,	45 60
Charles Brown,	80 60
Joseph C. Howard,	120 05
Ira A. Pratt,	45 40
James McAnagh,	63 00
George Withington,	39 20
Peter Keenan,	12 00
Warren C. Kinney,	46 35
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$2,969 02

Amount brought forward,	\$2,969 02
E. A. Cole,	20 80
Frank Conlon,	1 20
E. A. Godfrey,	39 00
Charles H. Egan,	47 54
L. E. Hayward,	14 35
Joseph E. Ryder,	1 40
Andrew Monson,	4 50
A. B. Black,	40 00
Willis K. Dickerson,	16 60
J. M. Howard & Son,	5 00
Bradford Copeland,	1 20
Edgar Billings,	4 20
B. F. Spence,	13 75
George M. Pratt,	14 72
Oliver K. Ness,	2 00
Thomas Gorman,	2 90
Livano Cortantino,	1 50
John Norman,	1 20
George R. Drake,	1 45
Nathan J. Alger,	4 00
Henry Hiatt,	1 40
Charles Ness,	2 00
Patrick Keenan,	7 00
Erland Thayer,	9 25
William F. Ryder	292 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,517 98
Appropriation,	3,500 00
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$17 98

WILLIAM F. RYDER,

Superintendent.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages Registered in West Bridgewater in 1896.

- Jan. 1. Francis P. Maguire of East Bridgewater and Nellie Agnes McAnagh of West Bridgewater.
- April 18. Orrin W. Cobbett and Mary Agnes Bailey, both of West Bridgewater.
- May 22. George Louis Smith of Brockton and Clarissa Dupuis of West Bridgewater.
- May 30. Eugene W. Blood and Etta M. Willis, both of West Bridgewater.
- June 10. John L. Pittsley of West Bridgewater and Florence M. Dean of Raynham.
- June 17. J. Arthur Kilpatrick of New York, N. Y., and Edith A. Carpenter of West Bridgewater.
- June 18. Nels Matias Wetzell and Ida Melvina Eklund, both of Brockton.
- June 30. Herbert A. LeBaron of Bridgewater and Mary K. Leonard of West Bridgewater.
- July 10. Charles E. Vosmus of West Bridgewater and Mary A. Mahon of Rockland.
- Aug. 11. Fred H. Lindsay of West Bridgewater and Clara Crossley of Scituate.
- Aug. 30. Franklin H. Haskell of New Bedford and Lillian B. Howland of West Bridgewater.
- Sept. 30. Clifton J. Denley and Elsie W. Lambert, both of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 3. Ward Richards and Evelyn L. Lyon, both of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 19. James T. Walker and Hattie F. Stone, both of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 28. Edward J. O'Brien of Randolph and Josephine Frances Kennedy of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 26. Joseph F. Mello of West Bridgewater and Mary F. Currier of East Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1896.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1895. March 30	Henry Wesley Stillman	Male	Charles W. Stillman and Oliver B. (Allen) Shaw.
1896. Jan. 1	Walter Churchill Crosby	"	George W. Crosby and Kate Murray.
" 3	Betsy Emma Turner	Female	Luther C. Turner and Emma F. Sargent.
" 6	William Ellis Hetherington	Male	Samuel B. Hetherington and Annie B. Bailey.
Feb. 14	Rose Minnie Lewis	Female	Mannell Lewis and Isabel Lewis.
15	Susan G. Buckley	"	Cornelius Buckley and Bridget F. Hennessey.
22	Marion Louise Bradford	"	Charles L. Bradford and Florence W. Stillman.
" 24	Jane O'Leary	"	Lawrence O'Leary and Margaret Dunaher.
" 24	Grace Emma Elliott	"	Charles W. Elliott and Emma B. Lowell.
May 4	Catherine Frances Parry	"	Henry W. Parry and Catherine McLean.
" 5	Esther Mary Cashion, * } twins.	"	Michael W. Cashion and Margaret Cashion.
" 5	Estella Margaret Cashion	Male	Gustavus A. Peterson and Hilma Matilda Johnson.
" 9	Gustavus Frederick Peterson	Female	John McGarry and Mary Ann Connors.
" 10	Margaret May McGarry	Female	Clinton P. Howard and Harriet F. Alger.
" 11	Isaac Howard	Male	Hubert A. Ferris and Mattie Elizabeth Barstow.
" 11	Harry Almon Ferris	Female	Jose Cabral and Julia A. Andrada.
" 19	Phebe Cabral	"	George F. Logie and Belle B. Alger.
" 25	Doris Belle Logue	Male	James Hennessey and Maggie A. Scanlan.
June 5	Walter Frederick Wixon	Female	Joshua F. Wixon and Matilda May Miller.
July 12	Arthur Chassez	"	Theophile Chassez and Adele Chassez.
Sept. 22	Charles Edwin Wilds	"	George W. Wilds and Mary E. Lang.
" 25	Everett Churchill Clark	"	Arthur E. Clark and Sarah E. Glass.
Oct. 20	Edward Arnold Winberg	Female	August Winberg and Sophie Lindstrom.
Nov. 27	Bathsheba Ruth O'Neill	"	Stephen E. O'Neill and Margaret A. Conneys.
Dec. 5	Jennie Marie Monson	"	Andrew Monson and Ida Sophie Nelson.
" 17	Gladys Lillian Packard	"	Charles E. Packard and Eugenia E. Young.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1896.

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1896.							
Jan. 5	Lottie M. Pratt.....	1	1	3	Convulsions.....	W. Bridgewater.	Edwin L. Pratt and Mary H. Pope.
" 24	Farmella Leckie.....	27	2	23	Puerperal Septicaemia.	MarionsHarb NY	Abraham Jones and Phebe Jones.
Feb. 5	Catherine Ryar.....	80			Heart Disease.....	Ireland.....	Unknown.
" 15	Jotham Nute.....	76	5	30	Mitral Insufficiency	Wolfboro, N. H.	Unknown.
" 14	Morgiana Duren.....	79	8	9	Paralysis.....	Bridgewater.....	Sylvanus Sturtevant & Polly Leonard
" 22	Jane O'Leary.....	79	8	1	Marasmus.....	W. Bridgewater.	Lawrence O'Leary, Margaret Danaher
March 2	Eliza F. Richardson...	52	11	16	Pericarditis.....	Boston.....	Unknown.
" 7	Patrick Cashion.....	66	11		Cancer of Stomach.....	Ireland.....	Sineon Cashion and Mary Reed.
" 21	Thomas Mason.....	58			Bronchitis.....	Bangor, Me.....	Unknown.
" 29	Marcus Southworth	83			La Grippe.....	Stoughton.....	Stephen Smith and Sarah Hadley.
Apr. 26	Stephen Smith.....	89	1	26	Old Age.....	Bath, N. H.....	Jose Cabral and Julia d'Andrada.
May 30	Phebe Cabral.....				Convulsions.....	W. Bridgewater.	Annie Pyne.
June 18	Constance Pyne.....		2	16	Marasmus.....	Boston.....	Micah B. Allen and Hannah E. Tarbox
" 18	E. Carlyle Allen.....	14	1	12	Drowning.....	Chelsea.....	John O. Tuell and Clara J. Aldridge.
" 18	Harry M. Tuell.....				Drowning.....	Lancaster, N. H.	Stephen Shores and Sarah Knapp.
July 14	Joseph A. Shores.....	68	7	21	Carcinoma of Rectum.....	Ireland.....	John Caveney and Ellen Whalen.
" 17	Catherine O'Neil.....	59			Typhoid Fever.....	Acton, Me.....	Thomas Keedy and Margaret Baldwin.
" 27	Margaret C. Blanchard,	47	1	20	Chronic Intestinal Neph.	W. Bridgewater.	John McGarry and Mary Ann Connors.
" 28	Margaret May McGarry	94	2	19	Cholera Infantum.....	W. Bridgewater.	Eben Copeland and Hannah Godfrey.
Aug. 3	James Copeland.....	94	5	27	Diarrhoea.....	W. Bridgewater.	Warren C. Kinney & Harriet Copeland
" 3	Bertha C. Kinney.....	20	7	15	Phthisis.....	W. Bridgewater.	Chas. L. Bradford, Florence W. Stillman
" 3	Friend W. Howard.....	72	9	23	Consumption.....	W. Bridgewater.	Chas. L. Bradford, Florence W. Stillman
" 4	Marion Louise Bradford		2	21	Cholera Infantum.....	W. Bridgewater.	Richard Westcoat and Lottie Burgess
" 14	Gladys M. Westcoat...		9	27	Cholera Infantum.....	W. Bridgewater.	Albertus E. Willard, Oliver R. Crowell
" 30	George E. Willard.....	2	5	5	Congestion of Brain.....	W. Bridgewater.	Stillman S. F. Willis & Delia M. Noyes
Sept. 6	Erta M. Blood.....	36	5	9	Epidemia Dysentery...	Brookton.....	Walter E. Packard and Etta E. Abbott
" 12	Winona E. Packard.....	29	1	23	Diarrhoea.....	W. Bridgewater.	Patrick and Bridget Keenan.
" 25	James T. Keenan.....	29	4	23	Phthisis.....	W. Bridgewater.	Shubael Cady and Wait Paine.
" 28	Aun Earl Cady Heath...	83	10	17	Phthisis.....	Killingly, Conn.	Unknown.
Nov. 11	Owen Conlon.....	65			Apoplexy.....	Ireland.....	Nat. Chamberlain, Elizabeth Harding
" 14	Francis W. Chamberlin	52	5		Mitral Insufficiency.....	E. Bridgewater.	Wm. F. Ryder and Ellen W. Glass.
Dec. 18	Mary E. Ryder.....	18	5	27	Diabetes.....	W. Bridgewater.	Joseph Styles and Lucy Smith.
" 29	Lydia E. Styles.....	65	5		Paralysis.....	Waltham.....	

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth ss:

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater
in the County of Plymouth, Greeting :*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the First of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz :

ART. 1. To choose a Moderator to preside n said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question : "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town ?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the Selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will raise one hundred dollars for public lectures.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 9. To see if the town will appropriate money for necessary transportation of pupils to Grammar School.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

There have been added, during the year 1896, to the library, 142 volumes, making the whole number 4,595.

The number of books loaned for the year, and the classes to which they belong, is as follows, viz:—

Agriculture,	4
Art,	19
Biography,	119
Fiction,	2,075
General Literature,	133
History,	137
Humorous Works,	61
Juvenile Works,	769
Magazines,	669
Poetry,	71
Works of Reference,	13
Science,	65
Travels,	49
Religion and Theology,	3
Public Documents,	2
	<hr/>
	4,189

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

Cash from Town Treasurer,	\$316 60
Sales of Catalogues and Cards, and Fines,	11 95
Balance to new account,	1 51
	<hr/>
	\$330 06

Expenditures.

Balance from old account,	\$0 92
Estes & Lauriat,	105 54
Librarian's salary,	104 36
Magazines,	32 65
J. F. Barnard & Co., binding,	26 46
Famous Composers,	24 00
Balch Brothers,	12 00
Postage, express, oil, etc.,	7 38
"Footsteps of Our Saviour,"	3 75
C. P. Howard, wood,	2 00
W. E. Fay, printing,	4 00
United States for Four Centuries,	3 00
Recollections of General Miles,	4 00
	<hr/>
	\$330 06

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees of the Public Library.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1896, the following were members of the committee :

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR, C. P. HOWARD, for 3 years.

J. A. SHORES, MRS. M. K. CROSBY, for 2 years.

G. C. HOWARD, W. H. BOSWORTH, for 1 year.

The organization for the year was as follows :

A. S. LELACHEUR, *Chairman*.

M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.

G. C. HOWARD, W. H. BOSWORTH and C. P. HOWARD,
Committee on Repairs.

L. A. FLAGG, D. W. GARDNER, C. H. EAGAN, *Truant Officers*.

The schools were assigned as follows :

North and South to Mr. C. P. Howard.

Cochesett to Mr. G. C. Howard.

Centre to Mrs. LeLacheur,

East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.

Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth,

To C. P. Howard, A. S. LeLacheur and M. K. Crosby was assigned the examination of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby was appointed agent for school supplies.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS.

Paid Miss G. A. Smith,	36 weeks,	\$339 00
Miss E. A. Morrow,	36 "	432 00
Miss I. S. Wood,	36 "	360 00
Miss E. Prindall,	21 "	252 00
Miss R. L. MacDonald,	36 "	396 00
Miss W. A. Holmes,	30 "	300 00
Miss G. Leonard,	6 "	54 00
Miss E. D. Loring,	15 "	135 00
Miss H. Turner,	51 "	210 00
Miss E. M. Planche,	15 "	150 00
Miss M. I. Packard,	27 "	249 00
Miss A. M. Seyser,	9 "	81 06
Miss M. A. Dewyre,	36 "	432 00
Mr. E. F. Sawyer, music,	36 "	136 25
Conveyance of Music Teacher,		59 50
		<hr/>
		\$3,585.75

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$14 00
Cochesett,	25 00
Centre,	28 00
South,	14 00
East,	14 00
Matfield,	14 00
North,	14 00
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\$123 00	

MAPS, PERIODICALS, REFERENCE BOOKS, ETC.

2 Sets Roller Maps.	\$25 00
Periodicals,	23 01
Eclectic Physical Geographies,	5 60
Simplex Printer,	4 25
	<hr/>
	\$57 86

FUEL.

Paid S. H. Marshall, 3 cords hard wood, $1\frac{3}{4}$ c. pine,	\$22.00
E. T. Snell, 5 cords hard, 3 cords pine,	37.00
A. W. Snell, 2 cords oak,	10.90
Erland Thayer, $5\frac{1}{4}$ cords hard, $3\frac{1}{4}$ cords pine,	39.25
“ “ labor,	1.00
C. H. Eagan, 3 cords hard,	15.00
C. P. Howard, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cords hard, 2 cords pine,	14.75
H. Withington, labor,	23.75
W. Penpraese “	11.87
G. Ellis, “	14.55
C. Keene, “	5.50
L. E. Hayward, “	4.00
W. H. Bosworth, “	2.75
F. E. Bisbee, “	3.00
E. A. Godfrey, “	10.25
E. H. Lothrop, 5 tons coal,	33.75
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	\$248.42

Expenditures.

Teachers' wages,	\$3,585.75
Fuel,	248.42
Janitors,	123.00
Reference Books, Maps, etc.,	57.86
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	\$4,015.03

Receipts.

Town grant,	\$3,600.00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	369.20
On account of District Supervision,	166.66
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	\$4,135.86

REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid Jarvis Burrill, printing and stock,	\$19.39
G. M. Webber, labor on stoves and stock,	21.75
J. S. Jones, outside painting, Matfield,	35.00
J. S. Jones, inside labor, East,	23.59
M. Curtis, labor and stock, East,	14.00
L. Richmond & Co., stock, East and Centre,	35.46
C. P. Howard, stock, (1895),	8.50
Isam Mitchell, stock, Centre,	9.03
G. H. Stone, labor and stock, Centre,	25.29
W. H. Lindsay, labor and stock, Centre and Cochesett,	24.98
S. D. Bartlett, labor, Centre,	1.12
W. Penpraese, Center and Cochesett,	12.50
G. Wilbur, Centre,	12.80
D. W. Gardner, truant service,	14.00
Express and postage,	8.45
Small furnishings,	5.33
	<hr/>
	271 19

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Amount brought forward,	\$271 19
Jerusalem,	3.70
Cochesett,	20.18
Centre,	18.08
East,	7.57
Matfield,	8.22
North,	4.60
South,	4.35
	<hr/>
	\$337.89

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid Leach, Shewell & Co., copy books,	\$30.27
Leach, Shewell & Co., language lessons,	4.50
American Book Co., copy books,	9.23
American Book Co., readers and physiologies,	9.60
E. E. Babb & Co., music readers,	19.20
E. E. Babb & Co., general supplies,	36.30
Ginn & Co., geographies, (exchange),	48.65
Ginn & Co., arithmetics and histories,	20.00
J. L. Hammett & Co., dictionaries,	5.50
J. L. Hammett & Co., general supplies,	61.02
Express and general supplies,	11.53
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	\$255 80
Whole amount of repairs,	\$337 89
Cost of school supplies,	255 80
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Total,	\$593 69
Town grant for repairs and supplies,	500 00

New Supplies on Hand December 31, 1896.

Readers, geographies and other books,	\$35 48
Paper, pencils, and general supplies,	8 51
	<hr/>
	\$43 99

Inventory of stock on hand Jan. 1, 1896,	\$45 95
Amount drawn from treasury,	255 80
Sale of school books,	2 55
Inventory of new stock December 31, 1896,	43 99
Supplies furnished schools,	260 31

The average membership in the schools for the year has been 247, and the cost of supplies furnished by the town has been \$255.80 or 90.4 cents per scholar.

The school census for May 1, 1886, gave 261 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these 237 were in the common schools, 3 in the Howard school, 2 (above 14 years) at work, 3 incompetent, 3 sick, 11 young and not yet in school, and 2 out for other causes.

Mr. Gifford, principal of the Howard High School, has furnished the following:

Number admitted in September, 1896,	14
Number attending Fall term,	29
Number of different pupils for the year,	40
Percentage of attendance for Fall term,	95.4

CALENDAR FOR 1897.

WINTER TERM. January 4 to March 19, 1897. 11 weeks.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 5 to June 11. 10 weeks.

Vacation. 12 weeks.

FALL TERM, Tuesday, Sept. 7, to Dec. 17. 15 weeks.

Recess. Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

Vacation. 2 weeks.

WINTER TERM. 1898, Jan. 3d.

Changes in this will be made to meet special needs in any school.

The school committee has been subjected to much criticism because it has not carried into effect the vote of the town at its last meeting, appropriating \$200 for the purchase of books and supplies for those town scholars attending the Howard High School.

The law under which the appropriation was made is as follows:—

CHAP. 94, ACTS OF 1895.

“Any town in which a High School is not maintained, but in which an academy of equal or higher grade is maintained, may grant and vote money to pay the tuition of children residing in such town and attending such academy; *provided such academy is approved for that purpose by the State Board of Education.*”

At the first meeting of the school committee following the March meeting, Mr. George C. Howard was instructed to confer with the Secretary of the State Board of Education, for the purpose of securing the formal approval of the school. Appended is Mr. Howard's report to the committee.

“Acting under the instruction of the school committee, about the middle of March, I wrote to Secretary Hill, asking him to delegate one of the agents of the board to visit the Howard High School and formally approve it, in order that we might avail ourselves of the provisions of Chapter 94, Acts of 1895. Mr. John W. McDonald was sent to inspect the school. In a letter to me dated on the day following his visit, he wrote, ‘It’—the Howard High School—‘is giving to the children of West Bridgewater the advantages of a great high school, but as it accepts the children of West Bridgewater free of charge, the approval of the state board of education is immaterial.’

I wrote to Mr. McDonald explaining that we desired the formal approval of the state board in order that we might pay for the books and supplies used by the town pupils. Receiving no answer, I wrote again to Secretary Hill asking for the approval of the school. In reply, the secretary wrote that there

was absolutely no objection to approving the school from an academic point of view, but he added, "Inasmuch as the school is in no wise under the control of the school committee, it is not—in view of the recent decision of the attorney general—a school in which West Bridgewater or any other town can properly pay tuition."

It seems that after the passage of the law above quoted, the attorney general pronounced it unconstitutional since it conflicted with the eighteenth article of amendment to the constitution of Massachusetts, which reads as follows:—

All moneys raised by taxation in towns and cities for the support of public schools, and all moneys which may be appropriated by the state for the support of the common schools, shall be applied to, and expended in, no other schools than those which are conducted according to law, *under the order and superintendence of the authorities of the town or city in which the money is to be expended.*

No doubt exists in my mind but that the law of 1895 is unconstitutional. I have, as moderator, ruled several times that it was impossible for the town of West Bridgewater to legally appropriate a dollar for the support of the Howard High School, but when my attention was called to the law of 1895, I held my personal opinion of the constitutionality of the law in abeyance and determined to enforce the law as it stood.

In reply to the letter of Secretary Hill, I wrote at some length taking the ground that the law was a law until set aside by the courts, and that forty decisions of the attorney-general could not nullify it. I claimed that the law was still upon the statute books and that the state board of education was sworn to execute it. I claimed then and I claim now that it is a dangerous assumption of power for any executive officer or board to assume the responsibility of deciding upon the constitutionality of laws. For, if in the absence of a judicial decision, a board may refuse to execute a law because, in the personal judgment of its members, it is unconstitutional, it is in their power to nullify any law in the same manner.

I closed my letter to the secretary with a formal demand from the committee of this town for the approval of the Howard High School.

In reply, Secretary Hill wrote that he had submitted my views to the attorney-general and had been informed that while a decision by that officer did not rest upon the same basis or carry the same force as would a decision by the courts, yet no department of the state government would be justified in ignoring such a decision.

Later I was informed by Agent McDonald that the state board of education was refusing to approve any private school, basing their refusal upon the attorney-general's opinion.

There the matter rests. The school has not been approved and consequently the appropriation of \$200 is not available and must be returned to the town treasury."

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of the Town of West Bridgewater:

I have the honor to present to you the following as my second annual report of the schools of West Bridgewater.

From the nature of things, there must be a certain degree of sameness in school reports, because many topics require annual treatment; but each year has its peculiar problems whose solution may properly be indicated in the report. Many details of these problems may be shown by statistics, and the condition and progress of our schools in certain directions can best be shown in a tabular form. These statistics are a valuable feature of each report, since they answer for taxpayers and all others interested in our schools many important questions and enable comparisons to be made from year to year.

These comparisons are best made when figures have been prepared upon the same basis for quite a period of time, since the use of a different basis would cause them to be misleading and confusing. For these reasons I shall continue to give the statistics in their usual form.

Number of schools in town,	9
Number of teachers required,	9
Number of teachers employed during the year, including music teacher,	14
Number of schools having different teachers,	4
Number of children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, census of May, 1896,	261
Census of May, 1895,	280
Number between 8 and 14 years, census of May, 1896,	168
Census of May, 1895,	170

Number of different pupils of all ages enrolled on school registers,	327
Greatest number enrolled in any school, (Matfield),	55
Least number enrolled in any school, (South),	24
Average membership,	247
Average membership per room,	27.44
Centre Grammar, 24.9; Centre Primary, 31.3;	
North, 24; East, 20.1; Jerusalem, 26.5;	
Cochesett Grammar, 37.8; Cochesett Primary, 24.1;	
South, 18.7; Matfield, 39.6.	
Average attendance,	225.4
Average attendance per room,	25.04
Centre Grammar, 22.4; Centre Primary, 29.1;	
North, 22.7; East, 18.6; Jerusalem, 25.3;	
Cochesett Grammar, 36.2; Cochesett Primary, 18.7;	
South, 15.7; Matfield, 36.7.	
Per cent. of average attendance,	91.2
Centre Grammar, 89.8; Centre Primary, 92.8;	
North, 94.5; East, 92.5; Jerusalem, 95.4;	
Cochesett Grammar, 95.9; Cochesett Primary, 92.4;	
South, 83.9; Matfield, 92.5.	
Per cent. of average attendance in 1895,	92.9
Number of children in attendance over 15 years of age,	12
Number of children in attendance under 5 years of age,	4
Number of children in attendance between 8 and 14 yrs.	198
Number of visits made by truant officers,	12
Number of truants found,	1
Number of employment certificates granted,	5

I am able to report that our schools, at the present time, are in a fairly satisfactory condition. We retain as members of our teaching force seven teachers who were with us one year ago. The continued service of these teachers is having a marked influence for good upon their schools, bearing out

my statement of a year ago that the best results are obtained by those teachers who, through long service, are thoroughly familiar with their pupils.

In my report of last year I spoke of the unsatisfactory results obtained in writing. A close observation of our schools disclosed the necessity of a radical departure in system. So ingrained had the bad habits become by long practice, that great efforts to produce improvement along the old lines seemed to produce no effect.

Up to the beginning of last year, I had always been opposed to the vertical system of writing, but examination into the results produced by the new system, caused me to change my views. I became convinced that a system supported by all the great medical societies of the world as one tending to check near sightedness and other eye troubles; a system that had been introduced into almost all European countries as being the most legible as well as the most rapid; a system that had been adopted in the foremost schools of this state and which was daily justifying its adoption, would be a good system for us to at least experiment with. The committee adopted my views and, in September, Hill's system of vertical writing was introduced. In the short space of fifteen weeks, more improvement has been made than in the whole of the previous year. Our pupils in the fourth grade now write better than did the pupils in the eighth grade at the close of the school year in June. I confidently expect that by the close of the year we shall be proud of the writing of our pupils.

I desire to call the attention of the committee to the advisability of better fitting our pupils for the work of the high school. In nearly all the towns of this section, as well as in every progressive community of the state, nine years of preparation are required for admission to the high school. This is, in my judgment, wise. I do not believe that the necessary preparation can be had in less time. This conclusion has been reached after careful thought and is partially due to

several conferences with the former principal of the high school, Mr. Willard.

The average ages of the last two entering classes at the high school were 14 years, 8 months, and 14 years, 5 months, respectively. The ages of the last two entering classes at the Brockton High School were 15 years, 4 months, and 15 years, 5 months; while the average ages of the last two entering classes at the Taunton High School were 15 years, 6 months, and 15 years, 10 months, respectively. Our pupils, as they have in the past entered the high school, have had no drill in square root, cube root, or mensuration; they have had no training in book-keeping; and their knowledge of civics has been slight and fragmentary. I submit that it is unfair to expect our teachers to do in eight years what the majority of teachers find it difficult to do in nine; and that it is unfair to the pupils to send them to the high school with insufficient preparation and expect them, at immature ages, to successfully accomplish their work. I recommend that a ninth grade be established to pursue the following course of study.

Mathematics—Arithmetic:

Fall Term, Business Arithmetic.

Winter Term,	}	Square Root.
Spring Term,		Cube Root.
		Mensuration.

Bookkeeping—Single Entry.

Language. Technical Grammar, by topics. Much practice in Composition, taken in connection with other subjects.

History. Fall Term, Review of United States History.

Winter Term,	}	Civics.
Spring Term,		

Geography. A thorough review,

Literature. The lives and works of.—Fall Term, Longfellow, Hawthorne. Winter Term, Whittier, Cooper. Spring Term, Bryant, Scott.

NOTE.—The public library should be freely used. Each pupil should be required to read each term at least two books by the authors prescribed for that term. Daily class readings should be made from the books being read.

In my opinion the additional grade can be established without crowding our lower schools by not promoting from the primary schools at the end of the present year. If my proposal be adopted by the committee, it is my intention to make five grades in the primary schools and four in the grammar schools. It is your superintendent's earnest belief that the ninth year's work will be the most profitable in the course. Many of our pupils now leave school at the end of eight years without any training in the high school. I believe that the majority of those so leaving would remain for the additional year's work, and I also thoroughly believe that each child should have some training in the principles of government, in bookkeeping, and in literature.

During the past term I have been giving much attention to the grading of our schools. The results of many tests and personal examinations have convinced me that many of our pupils are working in grades in which they find the work too difficult, while others are finding the work too easy. With the concurrence of the school committee, I shall, during the winter term, regrade our schools, and in my work I ask the hearty co-operation of the parents. Some children develop faster than others and should be pushed along a little faster through the grades. On the other hand there are children whose mental growth is rather slow. This is not their fault, and I do not believe that it is their misfortune, since it is often these slow-growing children that make the best minds after all. It is well, occasionally, for such children to take two years in a class. Oftentimes the children feel quite grieved at being thus compelled to take a year's work over again; but if their parents would show them the right view of the matter, they would soon cheerfully accept the situa-

tion. No child will be kept back for punishment or with a desire to do him an injury. The question is simply, what will do the child the most good? It is reasonable to suppose that since pupils' minds are not all alike, if a course is fitted for the majority, it must be too hard for some and they must take more time to complete it. It would be unwise to foster any spirit of discouragement or discontent which might be felt by a pupil who failed to keep up with his class. The right thing to do is to encourage him to go vigorously about his work, resolved to come out finally as well as the best.

I desire to call the attention of the committee to the necessity of refurnishing the Cochesett Grammar School room. The seats and desks in use in that room have seen constant service for forty-one years. In many instances the desks have been badly cut, while in others they have been roughened by improper usage. They no longer present a proper surface upon which to write. The standards of some of the desks have become rickety, and the backs of several chairs have been broken. This condition of affairs has existed for many years and is in no wise attributable to the present management of the school. Worse than all is the disparity of size between the seats and the children. There are but five sizes of seats in use in that room while many sizes of children are expected to occupy them. The result is that a sixty-inch boy is frequently crowded into a fifty-inch seat. Physicians tell us that much of the deformity seen in school children is directly traceable to the bad positions which they are obliged to assume during school hours. I recommend that the room be refurnished with Chandler *adjustable* chairs and desks during the spring vacation.

Under the skillful direction of Mr. Edmund F. Sawyer, our schools have made marked progress in music during the present year. In order that our townspeople may become better acquainted with Mr. Sawyer's work, the children of the

schools will, upon some date to be announced hereafter, give a recital at the Town Hall.

In my last report I spoke of the movement, then just begun, to give additional state aid to the schools of the smaller towns. I call attention to the following circular and ask that all citizens of West Bridgewater who believe in the justice of the proposed measure, make personal appeals to our representative and senator to work and vote for its passage.

STATE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

IMPORTANT TO SCHOOL BOARDS.

DEAR SIR :—You are doubtless aware of the movement to have the State take upon herself a part of the burden of supporting public schools. The justice of it is apparent from the fact that, while there is in the State an average of about \$8000 of taxable property for every child that attends school a year, some cities and towns have from \$15,000 to \$40,000 per pupil and others less than \$4000 or even \$3000, per pupil. Hence a great inequality in tax rates for public education results, varying from about one dollar on a thousand in the richer places to seven, eight and more in the poorer.

If the State can be brought to impose a general tax of, say, one dollar on the thousand, and to distribute the proceeds on some equitable basis as the average school attendance, it would be a great help to many places.

Your towns would gain annually about \$3200.00; East Bridgewater, \$1850.00; West Bridgewater, \$725.00; Raynham, \$640.00.

A responsible committee has been formed to press a bill to this effect in the present Legislature. What is needed is :

First, that you should see your representatives and senators, and urge their attention to this measure.

Second, that petitions should be sent in signed by school officers and as many citizens as possible, and that some one should be present at the hearings to represent you.

Rep. E. BURRILL PORTER, JR., *Chairman of Committee.*

J. W. MacDONALD, *Secretary.*

I close this report with a renewed feeling of deep obligation to each member of the school committee for the courtesy, the helpfulness, and the friendly counsel which have been

extended to me throughout the year. I desire to thank the teachers for their earnest co-operation ; and to the citizens I beg to express my appreciation of their assistance, and to assure them that their suggestions and complaints shall have my most earnest consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE C. HOWARD,

Superintendent of Schools.

WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASS., Jan. 15, 1897.

The death of Mr Shores July 14, was a serious loss to our board and to all the educational interests of the community

To express some appreciation of his faithful service, the following action was taken by the committee :

Resolved, That in the death of Joseph A Shores, for ten years the chairman of the school committee of this town, West Bridgewater loses a citizen whose services can ill be spared ; whose knowledge of education was extended ; whose acquaintance with the condition and needs of our schools was thorough ; and whose counsel was always wise and helpful.

Resolved, That this testimonial be printed in the annual report of the committee, and that a copy of the same be sent to the family of our late associate.

The vacancy in the school board was filled for the remainder of this year by the unanimous election of Mrs Caroline H Copeland at a joint meeting of the selectmen and school committee held in conformity to state law.

There is urgent need of new seats and desks in the grammar school room at Cochesett, and we therefore ask for a special appropriation to meet that expense.

For the support of schools,	\$3,600 00
repairs and incidentals,	300 00
text-books and supplies,	200 00
transportation of pupils,	275 00
new desks at Cochesett,	150 00

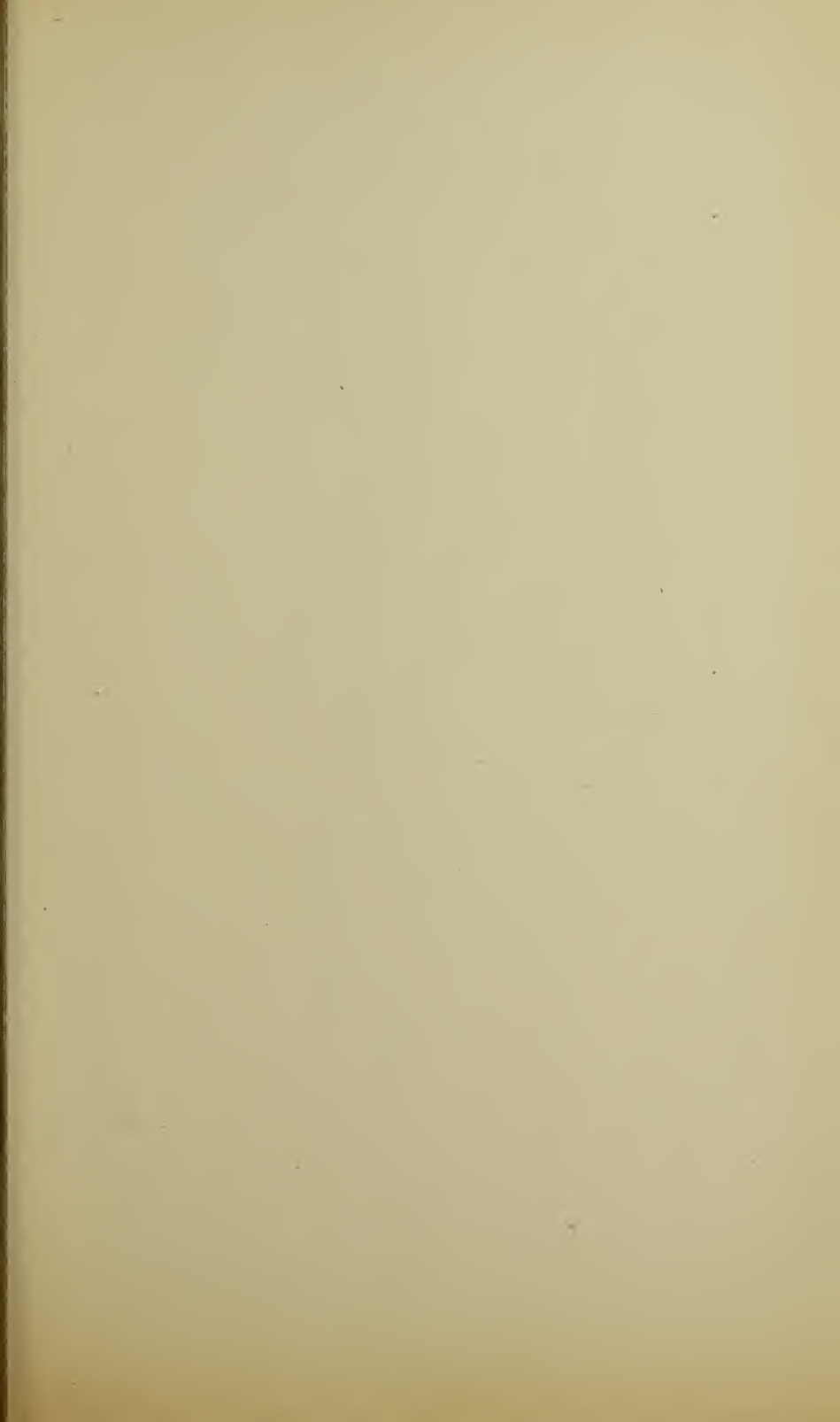
At the annual meeting it will be necessary to choose one member for one year and two members for three years.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. LELACHEUR,
M. K. CROSBY,
C. H. COPELAND,
W. H. BOSWORTH,
C. P. HOWARD,

} *School
Committee.*





ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1898.

TAUNTON:

PRINTED BY C. A. HACK & SON.

1898.



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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1897.

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF POOR, AND ASSESSORS.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR, SAMUEL G. COPELAND,
CHARLES E. TISDALE.

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY, CLINTON P. HOWARD,
GEORGE C. HOWARD, MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,
WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH, CAROLINE H. COPELAND.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

CHARLES R. PACKARD, MRS. CHARLOTTE A. WILLIAMS.
MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN, MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,
GEORGE C. HOWARD, JOSEPH C. HOWARD.

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

WILLIAM F. RYDER.

CONSTABLES.

DANIEL W. GARDNER, LIONEL H. ADAMS,
LOREN A. FLAGG, BENJAMIN F. BROOKS,

DAVID R. SIMMONS.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

GEORGE M. PRATT.

FIELD DRIVERS.

DANIEL W. GARDNER, MICHAEL O'FALLON.

FENCE VIEWERS.

CLINTON P. HOWARD, LOREN A. FLAGG,

S. G. COPELAND.

MEASURERS OF LUMBER,

MOLBRY A. RIPLEY, SAMUEL L. RYDER,
CLINTON P. HOWARD, DANIEL B. DAVIS,

LINUS E. HAYWARD.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

FRANK H. JONES, J. E. RYDER,
CHARLES E. TISDALE, DANIEL B. DAVIS,
MALBOY A. RIPLEY, EDWIN H. THAYER.

REGISTRARS.

JAMES A. FOBES, HORACE BARTLETT, CURTIS EDDY.

AUDITORS.

BENJAMIN B. HOWARD, GEORGE F. LOGUE.

POUND KEEPER.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

PUBLIC WEIGHERS.

MICHAEL LOGUE, CLINTON P. HOWARD.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town, January 1, 1898, is respectfully submitted:

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION.

As Assessed May 1, 1897.

Valuation of real estate,	\$887,577.00	
Value of personal estate,	123,102.00	
	<u> </u>	\$1,010,679.00

SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENTS.

Valuation of real estate,	\$73,600.00	
Valuation of personal estate,	134,141.00	
	<u> </u>	\$207,741.00
		<u> </u>
		\$1,218,420.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$700.00	
County tax,	1,525.55	
	<u> </u>	\$2,225.55
Town grant,	\$11,475.00	
Overlay,	245.30	
	<u> </u>	\$11,720.30
		<u> </u>
		\$13,945.85
Subsequent tax,		2,700.64
		<u> </u>
Total tax,		\$16,646.49

Rate of tax, \$13.00 per \$1,000. Poll tax, \$2.00.

Number of polls,	427
acres of land,	9,434
dwelling houses,	387
horses,	383
cows,	641
sheep,	32
swine,	143
young stock,	118
fowls,	1,220

APPROPRIATIONS.

For support of schools,	\$3,600.00
school supplies and repairs,	500.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	600.00
memorial service,	100.00
transportation of scholars,	275.00
school superintendent,	250.00
Cochesett cemetery,	100.00
Cochesett school,	150.00
	<hr/>
	\$11,475.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Value of New Almshouse and wood-house,	\$5,000.00
town farm,	3,500.00
personal property,	2,569.00
eight school-houses,	12,300.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	25.00
road scraper,	75.00

E. BRADFORD WILBUR, SAMUEL G. COPELAND, CHARLES E. TISDALE,	} <i>Assessors.</i>
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REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE JAN. 1st, 1898.

corn fodder,	\$6.00
30 tons of English hay,	450.00
5 tons meadow and swale hay,	40.00
corn and other grain,	72.00
6 bushels beans,	9.00
13 cows,	550.00
1 horse,	75.00
64 fowls,	48.00
9 bushels pop corn,	13.50
fertilizer,	32.00
30 bushels potatoes,	24.00
30 bushels turnips,	7.50
1 bushel beets,	.50
300 pounds cabbage,	6.00
250 pounds pork,	15.00
75 pounds lard,	4.50
85 pounds butter,	20.00
2 $\frac{1}{8}$ barrels flour,	11.80
groceries and molasses,	20.00
150 pounds sugar,	8.00
tea and coffee,	6.50
3 pork barrels,	2.00
soap and oil,	5.50
hay knife,	1.00
express wagon,	30.00
step ladder,	1.00
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenter's tools,	7.00
60 pounds dried apples,	3.50
35 pounds rolled oats,	1.20
100 pounds hams and shoulders,	8.00
550 pounds beef,	33.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,515.50

Amount brought forward,	\$1,515.50
beef hide,	4.50
hay cutter,	4.00
4 stoves and hot water boiler,	60.00
2 grind stones,	6.00
wheel hoe,	6.00
household furniture,	216.00
tinware,	10.00
crockery, etc.,	20.00
3 churns,	6.00
wooden ware,	12.00
beds and bedding,	115.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
2 hay wagons.	45.00
1 covered wagon,	45.06
2 tip carts,	50.00
1 pung,	8.00
harnesses,	30.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	6.00
robes and blankets,	4.00
mowing machine, rake and tedder,	60.00
6 plows, 3 harrows, and other tools,	70.00
horse sled,	5.00
manure and ashes,	100.00
coal,	80.00
2 ladders,	3.00
washing machine,	8.00
wood and lumber,	66.00
5 bushels onions,	5.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,569.00
Inventory January 1st, 1897,	2,453.80
	<hr/>
Gain in inventory,	\$115.20

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1897,	\$51.61
Received for milk,	1,330.84
stock,	295.05
potatoes,	58.45
eggs and poultry,	34.60
vegetables,	45.33
grain bags,	.90
Drawn from the Treasury for	
L. H. Adams,	16.69
L. G. Lowe & Son,	83.25
L. A. Flagg,	33.25
Browne & Logue,	7.14
E. H. Lothrop,	235.66
E. J. Bean,	233.33
	<hr/>
	\$2,426.10

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	\$61.96
meat,	87.82
grain,	365.78
coal,	82.29
butter, cheese,	81.07
medicine,	.60
fish,	7.18
clothing,	19.36
repairs,	53.41
labor,	210.02
seeds,	15 47
sugar,	38.92
fertilizer,	80 00
lumber,	4.90
furniture and bedding,	17.54
stock,	321.25
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$1,447.57

Amount brought forward,	\$1,447.57
Paid for tools and hardware,	65.49
cash to paupers,	2.50
tobacco,	12.39
smithwork,	17.44
tea and coffee,	21.40
groceries,	114.87
shoes,	13.55
stove and boiler,	50.00
warden's salary,	400.00
soap and oil,	12.56
ice,	8.34
salt,	3.60
crockery and tinware,	7.16
table linen, etc.,	7.30
insurance,	83.25
Cash on hand,	158.68
	<hr/>
	\$2,426.10

COST OF SUPPORTING POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from treasury per almshouse		
account,		\$609.32
Gain in inventory,	\$115.20	
Cash on hand,	158.68	
	<hr/>	\$273.88
		<hr/>
		\$335.44

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	84	48
Albert Staples,	55	52
Conn. Sullivan,	63	38
Geo. B. Randall,	71	52
Michael Ryan,	49	52
Ansel Alger,	70	21

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Sarah B. Howard,	65	52
Geo. L. Edson,	85	40
Philander Lambert,	48	3
Marinda Mason,	43	3

The warden during the year has lodged and fed 267 tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Geo. G. Hopkins,	\$69.80
Philander Lambert,	1.00
Charles E. Miller, Jr.,	8.00
Ben. Conwell,	4.50
Harriet Packard,	25.00
Abigail Fadden.	39.00
Marinda Mason,	6.00
John Golden,	22.30
Nathaniel Pratt,	17.30
Mrs. E. J. Packard,	169.46
Geo. N. Blanchard,	4.00
John A. W. Alger,	21.05
John Robbin's child,	97.91
Arthur Harvey,	4.50
Mrs. Kinney,	64.00
Arthur P. Packard,	10.20
Anson E. Cobbitt,	29.06
Fred Leonard,	212.00
Merton Churchill's children,	130.00
George Dunbar's children,	156.00
Charles E. Fisher,	36.50
Frank Fadden's children,	97.50
Isaac H. Bates,	10.00
Joseph Golden,	6.00
Total cost,	<hr/> \$1,241.08

Due from Plympton, for N. Pratt,	\$17.30	
Raynham, Chas. E. Miller, Jr.,	8.00	
State, John Golden,	22.30	
State, Joseph Golden,	6.00	
Brockton, Isaac H. Bates,	10.00	
Bridgewater, Ben. Cornwall,	4.50	
Easton, Geo. N. Blanchard,	4.00	
		<hr/>
		\$72.10
Cost to the town,		<hr/>
		\$1,168.98
E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	}	<i>Overseers</i>
S. G. COPELAND,		
CHARLES E. TISDALE,		
		<i>of</i>
		<i>the Poor.</i>

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,	\$600.00
Paid Henry Withington, care Monument Ground,	\$5.00
H. Withington, sawing wood for office,	2.50
Howard George, for fighting fire,	1.00
W. F. Whitmarsh, return of births,	2.00
S. G. Copeland, wood for office,	5.00
S. G. Copeland, for carting and setting town bounds,	4.00
J. S. Sampson, for printing reports, 1897,	38.25
H. E. Weston, hall and office rent,	150.00
Geo. R. Drake, telephone,	.95
Henry L. King, aid to constables,	8.83
A. B. Hodges, aid to constables,	8.50
Jesse Case, aid to constables,	6.36
M. D. Jones, revolutionary markers,	21.00
E. E. Hobart, entering two petitions,	6.00
L. E. Hayward, care of old cemetery,	1.00
F. M. Bixby, counsel fees in O'Connor case,	20.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$280.39

Amount brought forward,	\$280.39
George M. Pratt, postal cards,	7.25
George M. Pratt, printing postals and bill heads,	5.88
Joseph Vosmus, care of cemetery,	3.30
R. O. Harris, counsel fees on Brockton boundary bill, Edson vs. Gould, Howard Fund Tax, O'Connor case, expense in the same,	167.85
W. E. Fay, printing order books, warrants, etc.,	43.50
John P. Lovell, constable's badges,	4.05
Collector of taxes for Thornell property,	20.89
Nelson Messer, for two stone bounds,	24 00
Presson West, carting gravel around town bound,	5.00
Howard Clark & Co., return of deaths,	1.00
C. L. McCann, return of deaths,	.75
Charles E. Leonard, wood for office,	3.00
Thomas Groom & Co., tax books,	2.75
M. K. Crosby, horse hire,	5.21
Isaac H. Bates, fighting fires,	.80
Charles E. Miller, fighting fires,	.80
E. B. Wilbur, use of horse, postage, stationery,	44.30
	<hr/>
	\$620.72

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$900.00
Paid David R. Simmons, inspector of cattle,	278.17
David R. Simmons, constables,	12.79
George S. Drake, auditor,	2.50
George F. Logue, auditor,	2.50
George F. Logue, election officer,	1.80
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$297.76

Amount brought forward,	\$297.76
Charles H. Egan, election officer,	2.00
D. W. Gardner, constable,	119.47
L. A. Flagg, constable,	37.50
Horace Atwell, special constable,	2.50
Charles Von Gfug, special constable,	2.50
Horace Bartlett, registrar,	6.75
James A. Fobes, registrar,	7.80
Curtis Eddy, registrar,	5.40
M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	10.00
A. C. Peckham, election officer,	1.50
C. R. Packard, town clerk,	59.99
C. E. Tisdale, selectman, assessor, overseer poor,	134.50
S. G. Copeland, selectman, assessor, overseer poor,	146.30
E. B. Wilbur, selectman, assessor, overseer poor,	281.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,114.97
Due from state, one-half of	
inspector's salary,	\$139.08
Received from police court, Brockton,	237.10
	<hr/>
	376.18
	<hr/>
	\$738.79

STATE AID.

George N. Blanchard,	\$72.00
Charles E. Churchill and wife,	96.00
William T. Britton,	72.00
William E. Cole and wife,	92.00
William Crockett and wife,	56.00
James P. Gallagher,	72.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$460.00

Amount brought forward,	\$460.00
Linus E. Hayward and wife,	84.00
Henry Hiatt,	68.00
William H. Jennings,	72.00
James H. Leonard,	58.00
Isaac H. Bates,	56.00
Andrew W. Perkins,	72.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	72 00
George Wentworth,	32.00
Mary E. Alger,	48.00
Mary E. Howard,	40.00
Estella E. Howard,	48.00
Seth Edson,	48.00
Mary J. Reeves,	4.00
Hannah R. Stanley,	28.00
Ezekiel W. Chamberlain and wife,	48.00
William B. Smith,	60.00
James P. Lincoln,	48.00
Percy C. W. Vaughn,	15.00
Helen M. Bates,	4.00
Elizabeth F. Leonard,	48.00
Mary J. Reeves' burial,	35.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,448.00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in treasury January 1st, 1897,	\$4,865.61
Income from dog fund,	361.43
Income from school fund,	362.57
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$5,589.61

Amount brought forward,	\$5,589.61
Town of Natick,	5.00
Balance of corporation tax,	19.20
Inspector of animals,	70.74
Police court of Brockton, fines,	237.10
Plymouth County Trust Co.,	4,000.00
C. F. Dunbar, butcher license,	1.00
E. P. Dunbar, butcher license,	1.00
Town of East Bridgewater, for school supt.,	145.83
R. O. Harris, state allowance and school supt.,	916.67
State paupers,	14.28
Tax bills for 1897,	16,646.49
Corporation tax,	394.28
National Bank tax,	407.73
State aid,	1,557.00
Town of East Bridgewater, refunded music bill,	2.82
Interest of 1895 and 1896 taxes,	108.77
	<hr/>
	\$30,117.52

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for state aid,	\$1,448.00
Schools, repairs and supplies,	4,860.77
Schools, superintendent,	770.83
Schools, transportation,	355.58
Memorial,	100.00
Alms house,	609.32
Cochesett Cemetery,	98.75
Library,	446.92
Highways,	3,508.57
Poor out of house,	1,241.08
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$13,439.82

Amount brought forward,	\$13,439.82
Incidentals,	620.72
Abatements,	89.01
Town officers,	1,114.97
County tax,	1,525.55
State tax,	700.00
Plymouth County Trust Co., note, int.,	4,147.00
Horatio Howard, note and interest,	1,567.50
State fine,	35.00
Cash and uncollected taxes,	6,877.95
	<hr/>
	\$30,117.52

Condition of Treasury January, 1, 1898.

Cash on hand,	496.78
Uncollected taxes for 1895,	58.16
Uncollected taxes for 1896,	574.22
Uncollected taxes for 1897,	5,748.79
	<hr/>
	\$6,877.95

In obedience to the instructions of the town, the undersigned have examined the accounts of the selectmen for the year ending December 31, 1897. We find all orders drawn by the selectmen properly vouched for by receipted bills.

B. B. HOWARD, }
 GEORGE F. LOGUE, } *Auditors.*

NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

James A. Fobes,	Azel Lothrop,
George F. Logue,	Frank L. Howard,
William H. Bosworth,	Edwin L. Pratt,

NAMES OF JURORS *Continued.*

George Burke,	Curtis Eddy,
Charles H. Caldwell,	George H. Knapp,
Linus E. Hayward,	Herbert W. Packard,
Jonas Hartwell,	William F. Ryder,
Julius Hayward,	Charles E. Tisdale,
Albert L. Alger,	Henry W. Leach,
Jacob Atwood,	Lyman E. Copeland,
Charles T. Howard,	Edwin H. Thayer,
William H. Washburn,	Charles H. Fuller,
David R. Simmons,	Ellis R. Holbrook,
David Snow,	Henry F. Thayer,
Bradford Copeland,	Loren A. Flagg,
	Robert H. Hatch,

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1897.

Warren C. Kinney,	George S. Drake,
Seba H. Marshall,	Charles W. Elliott,
Joseph C. Howard,	Samuel G. Copeland,
	Japhet B. Packard.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS.

There has been drawn from the treasury		
for school repairs and supplies,		\$4,860.77
Appropriation for schools,	\$3,600.00	
Appropriation for school repairs and		
supplies,	650.00	
Received from school fund,	362.57	
Received from state on account of		
district supervision,	166.67	
	<hr/>	4,779.24
Overdrawn,		<hr/> \$81.53

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

There has been drawn from the treasury	
for superintendent of schools,	\$770.83
Rec'd from town of East Bridgewater, \$145.83	
Received from the state,	750.00
	<hr/>
	895.83

TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOLARS.

There has been drawn from the treasury	
for transporting scholars,	\$355.58
Appropriation,	275.00
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$80.58

LIBRARY.

Drawn from the treasury for the library,	\$446.92
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MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid Charles R. Packard,	100.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$3,500.00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved by	
superintendent of streets,	3,508.57
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$8.57

COCHESSETT CEMETERY.

Appropriation,		\$100.00
Paid John Shipman,	\$18.75	
D. A. Penpraise,	19.00	
S. H. Marshall,	11.00	
Joseph Vosmus,	19.50	
W. H. Lindsey,	12.50	
L. A. Flagg,	12.00	
A. J. Parker,	6.00	
	<hr/>	98.75
Balance,		<hr/> \$1.25

At a meeting of the selectmen, held at their office on March 8th, William Ryder was appointed superintendent of streets.

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE:

For the support of poor,	\$1,500.00
transportation of pupils,	350.00
schools,	3,600.00
repairs and supplies,	500.00
highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	600.00
memorial service,	100.00
superintendent of schools,	250.00

In accordance with a vote passed by the town at the last annual meeting in March, instructing the selectmen to notify Mr. Otis S. Gould of Boston, who was supposed to be legally bound to support George L. Edson, under the will of Jane M. Edson, if the bill of the town for the support of the said

Edson in eighteen hundred and ninety-six was not paid in three months from the time, to collect the same by law.

The selectmen wrote Mr. Gould as instructed and had two personal interviews with him, but could arrange no settlement and as instructed put the matter into the hands of Dist. Atty. B. O. Harris for collection.

The will of Jane M. Edson provides that in case Geo. L. Edson should become unable to support himself, he should have reasonable support, and his funeral expenses paid from her estate. Edson claimed that in no way had he signed any deeds or papers releasing Gould from the provisions of the will. Mr. Harris on examination of the records found that Edson had quit-claimed the larger part of the real estate to Gould, still there seemed to be two parcels of real estate available for his support. Upon further investigation, counsel for Gould produced a document, signed by Edson and acknowledged before a Justice of Peace some years ago, releasing Gould from all obligations relative to his support, under the will of Jane M. Edson, therefore throwing the support of Edson upon the town.

The next annual town meeting will be held on Monday, the 7th day of March.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	}	<i>Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.</i>
SAMUEL G. COPELAND,		
CHARLES E. TISDALE,		

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

The Superintendent of Streets has approved bills to the following named persons for material and work on the roads and sidewalks:

H. A. Marshall,	\$4.80
Michael Quinlan,	1.00
John Sands, .	14.00
David Dailey,	3.10
S. D. Bartlett,	3.40
John Norman,	11.89
John Reeves,	4.80
Henry D. Devonport,	10.50
Daniel Lynch,	1.00
Frank Conlon,	6.40
Frank Eckler,	1.20
Joseph E. Ryder,	1.20
E. N. Fisher,	24.85
Sumner P. Ames,	1.40
S. H. Marshall,	7.55
Charles Von Glug,	1.00
B. R. Kenney,	1.00
Andrew Munson,	24.70
C. E. Simmons,	.83
L. E. Hayward,	18.81
Charles A. Macomber,	7.00
John Nelson,	9.80

Howard George,	1.20
Michael King,	6.00
B. J. Conwell,	7.50
William Lindsey,	5.80
Henry Brown,	5.40
Daniel Sullivan,	.90
Michael Fallon,	3.50
Thomas Walker,	.70
Patrick Keenan,	2.40
Patrick Quinlan,	1.00
Charles Ness,	9.20
O. K. Ness,	11.00
Antone Johnson,	1.80
Otis Kinney,	2.75
Lewis Ponter,	18.29
W. K. Dickerson,	21.35
John King,	1.00
Joseph George,	2.80
Elijah Godfrey,	21.20
Alton W. Snell,	6.00
William L. Cox,	8.20
R. Sampson,	1.00
F. P. Hatch,	5.10
George Burk,	17.00
J. S. Allen,	16.60
E. H. Thayer,	3.75
Erland Thayer,	7.30
L. E. & E. Copeland,	4.00

William F. Ryder,	302.90
George G. Hopkins,	406.85
L. A. Flagg,	172.40
Charles H. Fuller,	112.25
John Duguid,	107.35
John Cashman,	176.50
John Luddy,	88.60
Samuel Hetherington,	29.20
John Courtney,	41.00
Charles Hakanson,	98.30
Charles E. Brown,	95.50
Terance Keenan,	68.00
Thomas Hennessey,	144.50
T. Prescott Snell,	99.35
Clinton P. Howard,	125.20
Horace Bartlett,	125.45
James Keenan,	81.70
David Frahar,	14.20
Charles E. Leonard,	120.00
Albert L. Alger,	69.45
E. E. Howard,	160.11
F. J. Hambley,	68.75
S. G. Copeland,	104.40
E. B. Wilbur,	34.06
J. C. Howard,	98.45
P. O'Connor's estate,	49.32
Daniel Gardner,	35.00
Michael McCarthy,	17.20
James McAnaugh,	27.00

John Peterson,	23.50
Peter Keenan,	15.00
Geo. Withington,	10.40
Eric Ohlson,	4.00
I. M. Charlton,	3.00
R. C. Bennett,	1.20
L. H. Adams,	3.40
Albert Packard,	3.00
C. H. Egan,	6.55
Dennis Gorman,	5.60
W. J. Alger,	32.00
John Norman,	12.00
William Penpraise,	.80
Waldo Bros.,	20.85
J. C. Leighton,	1.40
	<hr/>
	\$3,508.57
Appropriation,	3,500.00
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$8.57

WILLIAM F. RYDER,

Superintendent.

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth ss :

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater
in the County of Plymouth, Greeting :*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs,

to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town, on Monday, the seventh of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

ART. 1. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 4. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question: "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 8. To see if the town will appropriate money for necessary transportation of pupils to Grammar Schools.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of the Town of West Bridgewater :

Among the duties pertaining to the office of superintendent of schools, is that of preparing an annual statement of the condition and needs of the schools, which, though it is made directly to the school committee, is understood by every one to be addressed to the citizens of the town and to be for the enlightenment of the general public. It is the people who

furnish the means of supporting the schools; it is the people whose children are trained in the schools to become educated and useful citizens, or who are hampered and dwarfed by insufficient means and improper instruction. It is therefore, to them, through you, their honored representatives, that I address this, my third annual report, in the hope that it will receive careful attention.

Number of schools,		9
Number of teachers required,		10
Number of teachers employed during year,		13
Number of pupils in town between the ages of 5 and 15 years, as shown by the census of		
May, 1897,		263
May, 1896,		261
May, 1895,		261
Number of children in town between the ages of 8 and 14 years,		161
Number of pupils enrolled on school registers during year,		308
Number of pupils enrolled between the ages of 8 and 14 years,		182
Number of pupils enrolled over 15 years,		2
Average membership,		241.46
Center Grammar,	37.62	North, 23.9
Center Primary,	30.28	South, 17.55
Cochesett Grammar,	31.22	East, 18.78
Cochesett Primary,	16.07	Matfield, 44.43
Jerusalem,	22.41	
Average membership per school,		26.83
Average attendance,		220.18
Center Grammar,	33.85	North, 20.8
Center Primary,	27.84	South, 15.25

Cochesett Grammar,	28.97	East,	17.37
Cochesett Primary,	14.77	Matfield,	39.58
Jerusalem,	21.74		
Per cent. of attendance,			.912
Center Grammar,	.90	North,	.90
Center Primary,	.912	South,	.86
Cochesett Grammar,	.921	East,	.92
Cochesett Primary,	.919	Matfield,	.886
Jerusalem,	.969		.925
Per cent of attendance, 1896,			.912

There has been but one permanent change in the teaching force during the past year. Miss Eva Planche of the East School resigned in June, being succeeded by Miss Lizzie Dunn. The town is to be congratulated upon retaining its teachers, for the value of a competent teacher's work is greatly enhanced by each succeeding year of service, and the thoroughly established teacher, whose attention is not distracted by the cares of discipline is capable of doing a much better quality of work than the new, inexperienced, discipline-vexed teacher.

The establishment of a ninth grade has been a decided benefit to our schools; hitherto, the graduates of our grammar schools have been at a disadvantage in taking up their high school work. This has been due to two causes, insufficient preparation and the character of the instruction and studies below the high school. Up to the present year, there has been a gap between grammar school and high school work which a grammar school pupil has felt, and by which he has been frequently discouraged. When in the past, the grammar school course has been finished, the pupil has been brought face to face with a new condition of affairs; the

subjects that he was to study were entirely new to him, and the methods of instruction radically different. The establishment of a ninth grade has enabled this gap to be bridged; it has enabled much fuller preparation for the high school; and has given to the pupils entering that school some knowledge of the subjects there taught as well as of the methods there used. It has another advantage; many pupils terminate their school life on graduating from the grammar school. Hitherto, such pupils have had no training either in civil-government or book-keeping, and very little instruction in physiology. Hereafter, all such pupils will have been thoroughly trained in the history and government of their country, in the keeping of accounts and in the structure and care of their bodies.

During the present year a new departure in teaching reading has been made in the upper grades. Your superintendent does not find himself in accord with that system of teaching reading which consists in drilling children upon certain selected "pieces," in the vain endeavor to secure perfect elocutionary effect. The high grade elocutionist is—as Lord Tennyson said of poets—"born as well as made." It is a foolish waste of time to attempt to secure more than clear-cut, expressive reading in our schools. The balance of the time should be given to acquainting children with the riches of literature. The day of the old-fashioned, cat and dog reading book has gone by, and children should be fed no longer upon such "quadruped literature." What is the sense of compelling children to read the wishy-washy selections of the average reading book, when publishers have put within the easy reach of all school boards the works of Hawthorne, Cooper, Longfellow, Scott and the other masters of English and American literature?

A well defined beginning along the new lines has been made. The eighth and ninth grades, during the past year, have read, Scott's *Kenilworth*, Longfellow's "*Courtship of Miles Standish*," and Irving's "*Sketch Book*."

I recommend the adoption of the following course in reading as soon as the economical retirement of the books now in use will permit.

- 5th Grade. { Fall term—"Grandfather's Chair," Hawthorne.
 { Winter term—"Blaisdell's Short Stories from English History."
 { Spring term—"Seven Little Sisters," Andrews.

6th AND 7th GRADES.

- Even years { Fall term—"Hiawatha," Longfellow.
 { Winter term—"King of the Golden River," Ruskin.
 { Spring term—"Birds and Bees," Burroughs.
 Odd years. { Fall Term—"Little Nell" "Old Curiosity Shop" Dickens.
 { Winter term—"Snow Bound," Whittier.
 { Spring term—"Tanglewood Tales," Hawthorne.

8th AND 9th GRADES.

- Even years. { Fall term { "Ivanhoe," Scott.
 { "Courtship of Miles Standish," Longfellow.
 { Winter term { "Twice Told Tales," Hawthorne.
 { "Tales of Knightly Adventure."
 { "Vision of Sir Launfal," Lowell.
 { "Horatius at the Bridge," Macaulay.
 { "Gareth and Lynette," Tennyson.
 { Spring term { "The Spy," Cooper.
 { Whittier's Shorter Poems.
 Odd years. { Fall term { "Kenilworth," Scott.
 { "Evangeline," Longfellow.
 { Winter term { "Sketch Book," Irving.
 { "Longfellow's Shorter Poems,"
 { "Webster's Orations."
 { Spring term { "Dedication of Bunker Hill Monument."
 { "Landing of the Pilgrims,"
 { "Adams and Jefferson,"
 { "Tennyson's Shorter Poems."

In connection with the work in reading, teachers have been requested to make the books read the basis of the work in composition. I well remember with what profound dissatisfaction, when a school boy, I heard the command from the teacher, "The class will write compositions on summer," or some such kindred subject, and I also vividly recall the character of the compositions submitted for the teacher's exami-

nation. Children can write well and expressively, if only they have a definite idea of the thing written about, and after having read, critically, some story or poem like "Ivanhoe," or the "Courtship of Miles Standish," they will frequently surprise one with the good quality of their work in analyzing the characters, and in writing abstracts of the books studied. The modern system of instruction which discourages and forbids parrot-like repetitions of the pages of the text books, while correct in principle, tends to weaken the memory. As a corrector of that tendency, teachers have been requested, during the past year, to require daily memorizing of one or more stanzas of some famous poem.

Some few years ago, the old time-honored "spelling book" went out of fashion, and it became a fad to teach spelling by selecting words from reading or other lessons. During the past two years, I have been watching the results in our schools and I must say that I consider them very unsatisfactory. With the consent of the committee, I shall return the spelling book to its place in our schools and demand that spelling be made the subject of distinctive teaching.

In my last report, I referred to the bill authorizing a state appropriation toward the support of public schools, commonly known as the "School Mill Tax Bill." That bill passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate, but the governor of the Commonwealth, in his superior wisdom, saw fit to veto it. I am informed, on reliable authority, that the bill will be again introduced into the present Legislature and pressed to a passage. I do not propose in any way to criticise the action of His Excellency. I trust that he vetoed the bill because in his judgment it was for the best interests of the State, rather than, as some allege, because the bill was against

the interests of Boston, Brookline and the tax-dodgers. I wish to state, however, that after a very deliberate consideration and discussion, the legislature of last year saw fit to pass the bill. It met then with the approval of a great majority of the people of the State. The governor based his veto not upon the unconstitutionality of the bill but upon—to him—its doubtful expediency. Upon a question of law and constitutionality, the opinion of the governor, an able lawyer, should have much weight; upon the question of expediency the opinion of the average intelligent voter should be of equal value. In his last inaugural address, the governor convincingly argued for the equality of all citizens in matters of taxation. Expressly declaring for the old Massachusetts idea that all taxation should be proportionate to the ability to pay. If he believes that all taxation should be “proportionate and equal,” how can he conscientiously oppose a bill whose sole purpose is to equalize the taxation for schools?

“In a State, whose government and institutions are based on the free will of its citizens, the education of the young becomes of the utmost importance to the common interests, for the state must deal with it not only as a judicious policy, but in a large measure, as necessary to the continuance and perpetuity of the State itself; it must deal with education as a matter of necessity for the common good and as a question of expediency for the wholesome furtherance of that good; it must seek to educate the individual so that he may develop as a useful and reliable citizen and thus contribute most to the common weal. Individual characters make up the character of the State of which the individuals are the constituent parts.

In recognition of this principle, the State has established a system of schools for the training of its children and youth,

The public school as an institution of the State is intended not only to prepare the young to become useful individuals but to prepare them to become loyal citizens of the State. In her nursery of developing citizens whose habits of thought and sentiment are in the stage of formation, the State not only expects that the training will tend towards habits of patriotic and loyal thoughts and sentiments, but ought to demand and does demand positive training in that direction.

In this light, the State utters her commands to every city and town within her borders to maintain public schools of such grades, in such numbers, and for such times as she deems best; determines the qualifications of the teachers; prescribes the branches to be taught; the mode of administration and the means of securing attendance; and all this that she may secure the prevalence of intelligence throughout her borders, without which she could not exist as a free and prosperous Commonwealth.

In Massachusetts, the burden of supporting these schools, with the exception of a small amount from the state-fund distributed to the smallest towns, is at present imposed upon the separate municipalities, without any regard to the difference in their ability. Obviously, this method of supporting a state system of schools is equitable only when the several municipalities occupy such a position in respect to population and wealth that the burden thus thrown upon one will press equally upon all.

Such was substantially the condition of things when our school system was originally established. In the homogeneous character of the people, in the similarity of occupations (agriculture and fisheries being the principal industries) were found the conditions of a substantial uniformity of worldly

fortune, throughout the several towns of the colony, most favorable for the great experiment. During the periods of our colonial, provincial and constitutional history, until the close of the first quarter of the present century, these favorable conditions remained substantially the same, but these conditions no longer exist, and the old method of supporting our schools has ceased to be equitable. The introduction of great branches of manufacturing industry, which draw large masses of people to convenient centers, the vast increase of internal trade and external commerce, by means of our railroad systems, spreading like a network over our territory, and all converging at a few central points, have silently, yet wonderfully, changed the old order and relations of our municipalities to one another, and have given rise to such a disparity in the relation of their child population to their conditions of wealth, as to render a marked inequality in the burdens imposed on the several cities and towns for the support of the schools of the Commonwealth.

An examination of the statistical tables in the annual report of the Massachusetts Board of Education will show an interesting exhibit of this disparity and inequality. For example, the statistical tables in the last annual report show that while in the State as a whole there is an average valuation of \$7,903 per pupil, some places have more than \$15,000, \$20,000 or even \$30,000 per pupil, while others have less than \$4,000, \$3,000 or even \$2,000 per pupil. It follows that while some towns have to tax themselves less than \$2.00 or even \$1.50 on the thousand for educational purposes, others have to tax themselves \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00 and even \$9.00 per thousand for the same purpose. For illustration, suppose a tax payer has \$10,000 of taxable property, if he lives in Man-

chester, his annual contribution for educating the children of the State is \$12.10; in Brookline \$18.90; in Milton \$20.80; in Boston \$20.70; in Malden \$44.10; in Quincy \$46.70; in Marlboro \$52.00; in Attleboro \$54.30; in North Attleboro \$67.60; in Weymouth \$72.80. In short in 136 places he would have to contribute for this purpose alone in response to the State's commands, over \$50; in 60, over \$60; in 16, over \$70; in 9, over \$80; and in 4, over \$90.

To put it in another way, 30 rich cities and towns of the State have a total valuation of \$1,279,816,039 and an average school attendance of 86,484. The rest of the State has a valuation of \$1,262,532,944 with an average attendance of 235,201, or \$17,000,000 less wealth and nearly three times the number of pupils. The property of the former contributes in taxes for the current expenses of the schools for educating the children of the State \$2,777,293.65 and the latter (the lesser half) \$5,513,582.44.

There are 37 other cities and towns that are just about on an average in their wealth and in their tax rates for schools, with an average attendance of 54,025 pupils. Leaving these out of the second class as given above, we have 290 cities and towns left, with a valuation of \$895,724,092 and an average attendance of 181,176 pupils, and this part of the wealth of the State contributes \$4,196,939.67 for education.

Facts like the foregoing, show that there is a wide disparity in the burdens which the present system of supporting our public schools imposes; that these burdens, borne not for the good of individuals or towns alone but chiefly in furtherance of good citizenship and for the Commonwealth, should be in some good measure, equalized.

To accomplish this end is the purpose of the bill in question. It is intended as a measure to enable the Common-

wealth, as such, to share in the expense of supporting her schools. The tax for which the bill provides, assessed on recent valuations, would yield not far from \$2,500,000 annually; and, when distributed in the manner proposed, about \$6.00 for each child between 5 and 15 years in the Commonwealth, or somewhat less than one-third of the aggregate expended for all public school purposes exclusive of buildings and repairs."

West Bridgewater with a tax rate for schools in excess of the average for the state would gain some \$850. It would gain because it ought to gain. Educating its children not for the benefit of itself alone, but for the state; it should have the assistance of the state in supporting its schools. It is manifestly unfair that West Bridgewater should be compelled to raise over per thousand for the support of public schools, while Nahant raises only \$1.05; Manchester only \$1.21; Milton only \$2.08 and Boston only \$2.07 per thousand.

I trust that, as last year, the town will both by vote at its annual meeting and by vote of its school committee, instruct its representative and senator in the General Court to work for the passage of the bill.

The repairs during the past three years have kept pace with the needs. This has been wise. Prompt attention even to minor repairs is economy as it tends to keep teachers and pupils reminded that the property of the town is to be suitably preserved and protected.

I am informed by the chairman of the board of trustees of the Howard High School that the trustees recently voted that the school should be closed at the end of the present school year in June, basing their decision upon the recent action of the town assessors in taxing the property of the school.

This decision of the trustees places the town between two alternatives. Either the town must in some way provide for the non-collection of the tax—in which case, I am informed that the school will be kept open—or it must make a large appropriation for the tuition of our pupils in the high schools of other towns.

The importance of the matter leads me to append a brief statement of the facts upon which the trustees of the Howard School base their action. They claim that they have been properly incorporated as an educational institution; that for thirteen years they have given the town free high school facilities; that they are taxed this year for \$2,400 in excess of receipts, and that, if they are forced to pay the tax, the school must close; they also claim that they are illegally taxed, basing their opinion as to the illegality of the tax upon the opinions of three of the foremost lawyers in Plymouth County; they assert that if they pay the tax, it will be under protest, and that the town will be sued to recover the amount so paid; they also assert that if there be a flaw in the articles of incorporation by which the property of the school can be legally taxed, they have only to petition the legislature for a new charter and that, therefore, the tax can be collected but for one year only.

I ask the most earnest consideration of the voters to this matter.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the teachers for their faithful services, the committee for its cordial support, and the parents for their hearty cooperation and good will.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE C. HOWARD,

Superintendent of Schools.

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Jan. 10, 1898.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

*Marriages Registered in West Bridgewater
during the year 1897.*

- Jan. 1. Dennis Sullivan of West Bridgewater and Susan V. Ward of Bridgewater.
- Jan. 4. George H. Stone of West Bridgewater and Joanna Kehoe of Hingham.
- March 3. Nils G. Johnson of Brockton and Grace Mabel Ness of West Bridgewater.
- April 20. George S. Washburn of West Bridgewater and Maude Anna White of Brockton.
- April 21. John A. Martin and Margaret E. Duggan, both of West Bridgewater.
- May 18. Warren C. Elliott of West Bridgewater and Sophia W. McCuaig of Brockton.
- May 21. Wellington Caldwell of East Bridgewater and Emily Louisa Burrell of West Bridgewater.
- June 24. John A. Keenan of West Bridgewater and Grace G. Drislane of East Bridgewater.
- July 6. Arthur A. Webber of West Bridgewater and Lucy Florence Raymond of East Bridgewater.
- Sept. 2. William M. Leavitt and Lillian E. Clark, both of West Bridgewater.
- Sept. 12. Jacinto Paeiro Cardazo and Francisca Farendes Mello, both of West Bridgewater.
- Oct. 7. Almond H. Crowell and Josephine A. Raymond, both of West Bridgewater.

- Oct. 7. L. Thatcher Kelley of Brockton and Kate G. Dewyer of West Bridgewater.
- Oct. 7. John L. Sullivan of West Bridgewater and Margaret E. McDonald of Bridgewater.
- Oct. 14. George G. Tucker of West Bridgewater and Viola F. Howard of Holbrook.
- Oct. 16. William F. Lyon of Brockton and Minnie C. Ness of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 27. Joseph L. E. Dufily of West Bridgewater and Velleda Mathieu of Ware.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1897.

DATE.	NAME.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1893. October 2	Helen O'Leary.....	Female.....	Lawrence O'Leary and Margaret Deneher.
1896. May 5	Lawrence W. Fallon.....	Male.....	Michael O'Fallon and Ellen J. Duane.
May 11	Reginald D. Marshall.....	".....	Harry A. Marshall and Ada E. De Neves.
1897. January 5	Chester Oliver Ness.....	".....	Oliver Kimball Ness and Louise Marie Carson.
January 6	Rose Lewis.....	Female.....	Manuel and Isabella Lewis.
January 9	Rosanna Margaret McAnough.....	".....	Edward McAnough and Mary J. Hayes.
March 7	Myra Bennett.....	".....	Rufus C. Bennett and Carrie Chase.
March 11	Ralph Dunham Ryder.....	Male.....	George F. Ryder and Grace M. Adams.
March 15	Stanley F. Alger.....	".....	Fred A. Alger and Mabelle P. Wild.
April 30	Charles Cummings Gifford.....	".....	Ralph Waldo Gifford and Sarah Lowell Parsons.
May 16	Robert Ellsmere Lindsay.....	".....	Fred H. Lindsay and Clara Crossley.
June 8	Emma Silvie.....	Female.....	Joseph and Jene Silvie.
June 24	Esther Cecelia Hankanson.....	".....	Claus and Selma Hankanson.
July 4	Louis George.....	Male.....	Joseph and Mary George.
July 26	Gladys Luella Holbrook.....	Female.....	Clara L. Holbrook.
August 1	Harold Edward McLeod.....	Male.....	William H. McLeod and Carrie E. Willis.
September 13	Lawrence O'Leary.....	".....	Lawrence O'Leary and Margaret Deneher.
September 18	— Burke.....	Female.....	John Burke and May Pittsley.
September 23	— Battles.....	".....	William F. Battles and Cora E. Brainard.
October 14	Phœbe Caboal.....	".....	José Cabral and Julia A. Andrada.
October 18	Estelle Beatrice Lambert.....	".....	D. Webster Lambert and Nettie M. Styles.
October 20	Agnes Grace Johnson.....	".....	Nils Johnson and Grace Mabel Ness.
November 2	Stillborn.....	Male.....	Howard E. Billings and Agnes M. Hemingway.
December 14	Irene Clark.....	Female.....	Arthur E. Clark and Sarah C. Glass.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1897.

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARANTS.
1897.							
Jan. 14	William Gorman.	59	6	0	Consumption.	Ireland.	E. Gorman, (mother's name unknown).
Feb. 11	Julia A. Drury.	82	5	30	General Debility.	W. Bridgewater.	Abiezer Alger and Anne C Thomas.
Feb. 26	Lucy W. Egan.	62	2	12	General Debility.	Livermore, Me.	Silas Morse and Elizabeth Waite.
Feb. 27	Chester R. Leach.	12	0	6	Tonsillitis.	W. Bridgewater.	Unite K. Leach and Maggie J Penpraise.
Mar. 4	Reginald D. Marshall.	0	9	22	La Grippe.	W. Bridgewater.	Harry A. Marshall and Ada E. De Neves.
Mar. 4	Mary Sullivan.	68	3	16	Paralysis.	Ireland.	Unknown.
Mar. 12	Edward Madden.	77	0	0	Rheumatism.	Ireland.	Edward and Bridget Madden.
Mar. 26	Mary J. Reeves.	66	9	9	La Grippe.	England.	James Rudd and Mary Cooper.
May 30	Daniel Perkins.	92	8	6	Old Age.	Duxbury.	Calvin Perkins and Annie Delano.
June 15	Martha Howard	85	11	14	Apoplexia.	Som'worth, N. H.	Gershon and Lydia Horn.
June 17	Daniel S. Murphy.	76	0	0	Pneumonia.	Ireland,	Stephen Murphy and Mary Toomey.
June 28	Annie P. Marston.	64	10	4	Gangrene.	W. Bridgewater.	Daniel Perkins and Maria Glass.
June 30	James C. Parsons.	63	10	14	Myelitis.	Gloucester.	Gorham Parsons and Abigail Challis.
July 5	Minnie Carlson.	32	0	27	Asphyxia.	Sweden.	Carl Nilson, (mother's name unknown).
Aug. 1	Kate M. Davis.	44	0	4	Apoplexia.	Stillwater, N. Y.	Benj. Whitman and A. Maria Comstock.
Sept 22	John T. Z. Thompson.	0	0	4	Convulsions.	W. Bridgewater.	John Burke and Mary Pittsley.
Oct. 7	— Burke.	86	1	4	Dysentery.	Halifax.	Zedadiah Thompson and Martha Briggs.
Oct. 31	Azel Dinsmore.	55	8	30	Cronic Nephritis.	Stew'ville, N. H.	Unknown.
Nov. 14	Edith H. Michie.	18	3	20	Phthisis.	Boston.	William Michie and Alice Howard.
Dec. 6	Elmer F. Westgate.	58	0	0	Pneumonia.	Middleboro.	Unknown.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

During the year 1897, there have been added to the library, by purchase, 124 volumes, making the whole number 4,719.

The number of books loaned for the year, and the classes to which they belong, is as follows, viz. :—

Agriculture,	2
Art,	3
Biography,	104
Fiction,	1,903
General Literature,	123
History,	76
Humorous Works,	28
Juvenile Works,	822
Magazines,	737
Poetry,	39
Reference Works,	5
Religion and Theology,	6
Science,	81
Travels,	37
Public Documents,	1
	<hr/>
	3,967

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

From Town Treasurer,	\$446.92
sales of cards, catalogues and fines,	14.10
	<hr/>
	\$461.02

Expenditures.

For Librarian's salary,	\$150.00
books, Estes & Lauriat,	93.71
rebinding, F. J. Barnard & Co.,	53.53
magazines,	30.85
printing catalogue,	86.25
W. H. Cook,	8.00
Rand, McNally & Co., Atlas,	21.15
postage, express, oil, etc.,	12.02
"The Pilgrim Republic,"	4.00
balance from old account,	1.51
	<hr/>
	\$461.02

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees of the Public Library.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1897 the following were members of the committee:

G. C. HOWARD, W. H. BOSWORTH, for three years.
 MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR, C. P. HOWARD, for two years.
 MRS. M. K. CROSBY, MRS. C. H. COPELAND, for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows:

A. S. LELACHEUR, *Chairman*.

M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.

G. C. HOWARD, W. H. BOSWORTH and C. P. HOWARD,
Committee on Repairs.

The schools were assigned as follows:

North to Mrs. Copeland.

Cochesett to G. C. Howard.

Centre to Mrs LeLacheur.

South to C. P. Howard.

East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.

Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

To A. S. LeLacheur, M. K. Crosby and C. H. Copeland were assigned the approval of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby was appointed agent for school supplies.

L. A. Flagg, D. W. Gardner and C. H. Eagan were chosen to act as truant officers.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS.

Miss G. A. Smith,	36 weeks,	\$360.00
Miss E. A. Morrow,	36 "	432.00
Miss I. S. Wood,	36 "	360.00

Miss R. L. MacDonald,	36 weeks,	432.00
Miss W. A. Holmes,	36 "	360.00
Miss E. D. Loring,	33 "	309.00
Miss E. M. Planche,	21 "	210.00
Miss E. M. Dunn,	15 "	150.00
Miss M. A. Dewyer,	36 "	432.00
Miss A. M. Seyser,	36 "	324.00
Miss M. W. Haskell,	14 "	112.00
Mr. E. F. Sawyer,	music,	116.25
Miss A. M. Barnes,	"	31.20
Conveyance of music teacher,		53.25
		<hr/>
		\$3,681.70

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$14.00
Cochesett,	26.00
Centre,	28.00
South,	14.00
East,	14.00
Matfield,	14.00
North,	14.00
<hr/>	
\$124.00	

REFERENCE BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND APPARATUS.

Scott's Poems, 2 copies,	\$2.00
World's Progress, 2 copies,	5.00
Footprints of Four Centuries, 2 copies,	6.00
Periodicals,	8.55
7 Number Wheels,	20.50
<hr/>	
\$42.05	

FUEL.

Paid S. H. Marshall, 4 cords hard wood, 1 cord pine,	\$24.00
E. T. Snell, 1 cord hard wood, 3 cords pine,	17.00
C. G. Manley, 3 cords hard wood, 1 cord pine,	17.50
C. P. Howard, $3\frac{1}{2}$ cords hard, (labor), 1 cord pine,	23.45
E. Thayer, 1 cord pine,	4.00
E. H. Thayer, 5 cords oak, 4 cords pine, (labor,)	42.00
B. Copeland, 1 cord pine and labor,	5.50
L. E. Hayward, labor,	4.00
H. Withington, labor,	17.00
G. Ellis, labor,	12.90
A. Winberg, labor,	3.75
Wm. Penpraise, labor,	12.50
E. H. Lothrop, 10,000 lbs. coal,	32.50
	<hr/>
	\$216.10

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' wages,	\$3,681.70
Fuel,	216.10
Janitors,	124.00
Reference books, periodicals, etc.,	42.05
	<hr/>
	\$4,063.85

RECEIPTS.

Town grant,	\$3,600.00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	362.57
On account of district supervision,	166.66
	<hr/>
	\$4,129.23

REPAIRS.

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	\$4.00
Cochesett,	23.20
Centre,	23.14
East,	7.48
Matfield,	5.65
North,	7.85
South,	9.54
	<hr/>
	\$80.86

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid G. M. Webb, labor on stoves and stock,	\$22.00
L. Richmond & Co., stock,	6.08
Isam Mitchell, shingles and lumber (North),	56.88
U. K. Leach, labor and stock (North),	60.43
W. H. Lindsay, labor (Centre and North);	25.50
C. P. Howard, fence posts (North),	3.20
W. Penpraise, whitewashing (Cen. and Cochesett),	13.00
Desk and chair (Centre),	20.00
Japanese screens (Centre),	5.50
Desk and chair (Cochesett),	21.50
Two cases drawers (Cochesett),	10.00
Forty adjustable desks (Cochesett),	138.00
Transportation of desks,	2.82
Labor in reseating,	14.38
Six wire door mats,	7.26
D. W. Gardner, constable service,	6.50
J. C. Clark & Co., printing,	2.50
Jarvis Burrill, printing,	26.83
Expenses of Superintendent, printing, stationery,	
postage, travelling (1896-97),	16.96
Express and postage for supplies and furnishings,	12.45
	<hr/>
	\$471.79

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid Ginn & Co., arithmetics and readers,	\$22.93
Leach, Shewell & Co., copy books,	34.17
Leach, Shewell & Co., language lessons,	7.50
Longmans, Green & Co., readers,	4.03
University Publishing Co., readers,	13.20
The Morse Co., readers,	6.24
J. L. Hammett & Co., Fiske's Hist. of U. S.,	10.80
J. L. Hammett & Co., readers,	16.53
J. L. Hammett & Co., general supplies,	59.28
Silver, Burdett & Co., readers,	6.00
E E. Babb & Co., music readers,	14.40
E. E. Babb & Co., book-keeping supplies,	10.88
E. E. Babb & Co., general supplies,	29.31
D. C. Heath & Co., Dole's American Citizen,	9.00
	<hr/>
	\$244.27
Whole amount of repairs,	552.65
Cost of school supplies,	244.27
	<hr/>
Total,	\$796.92
Town grant for repairs and supplies,	650.00

New Supplies on Hand Dec. 31, 1897.

Readers, geographies and other books,	\$33.50
Paper, pencils and general supplies,	17.46
	<hr/>
	\$50.96
Inventory of stock on hand Jan. 1, 1897,	\$43.99
Amount drawn from treasury,	244.27
Inventory of new stock Dec. 21, 1897,	50.96
Supplies furnished schools,	237.30

The average membership in the schools for the year has been 241.46 and the cost of supplies furnished by the town has been \$244.27 or \$1.00 per scholar.

The school census for May 1, 1897, gave 263 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these 227 were in the common schools, 4 in the Howard School, 1 taught at home, 4 (over 14 years) at work, 1 incompetent, 4 sick, 21 young and not yet in school and 1 out for other reasons.

Mr. Gifford, principal of the Howard High School has furnished the following:

Number attending the Fall term,	17
Percentage of attendance for Fall term,	90.1

CALENDAR FOR 1898.

WINTER TERM, January 3 to March 18, 1898. Eleven weeks.

Vacation, two weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 4 to June 10. Ten weeks.

Vacation, thirteen weeks.

FALL TERM, September 12 to December 23. Fifteen weeks.

Recess, Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

Vacation, two weeks.

WINTER TERM, 1899, January 9.

Changes may be made in this to accommodate different schools.

The repairs needed at the North school were unexpectedly large, and the convenient means of school transportation, opened by the electric road, was the other chief cause for an excess of expenditure over appropriations in our department.

We ask for an increased grant for transportation, though it is not possible to estimate exactly the amount that will be required.

We also ask for a liberal increase to enable us to keep our schools under the charge of well trained and experienced teachers.

It seems desirable to replace the much worn desks in the Centre grammar building with the convenient and comfortable kind (the Chandler adjustable) that were put into the Cochesett room last year, and at the same time lay a new floor and arrange to heat from the basement.

As the present size of the school requires an assistant teacher, some arrangement that will give a separate room for recitations is absolutely demanded.

The teachers are now subjected to the inconvenience of carrying on two recitations at one time in the school-room.

A special appropriation is requested in accordance with the following estimates obtained by the sub-committee chosen for this purpose.

60 desks, with placing in room,	\$225.00
Furnace,	115.00
Floor and sliding partition,	
For the support of schools,	4,000.00
repairs and incidentals,	300.00
text-books and supplies,	200.00
transportation of pupils,	450.00
new desks, furnace, floor, &c., at Centre,	

At the annual meeting it will be necessary to choose two members for three years.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. LELACHEUR, M. K. CROSBY, C. H. COPELAND, W. H. BOSWORTH, C. P. HOWARD,	}	<i>School</i> <i>Committee.</i>
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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
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OF
WEST BRIDGEWATER
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1899.

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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1898.

Selectmen, Overseers of Poor, and Assessors.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,

SAMUEL G. COPELAND,

CHARLES E. TISDALE.

Town Clerk.

CHARLES R. PACKARD.

Collector and Treasurer.

FRANK L. HOWARD.

School Committee.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY,
EDWARD E. BROWN,
WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH,

CLINTON P. HOWARD,
MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR,
CAROLINE H. COPELAND.

Trustees of Public Library.

CHARLES R. PACKARD,
MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAN,
ELLIS L. LELACHEUR,

MRS. CHARLOTTE A. WILLIAMS,
MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,
JOSEPH C. HOWARD,

Superintendent of Streets.

WILLIAM F. RYDER.

Constables.

CHARLES H. EGAN,
DANIEL W. GARDNER,
LOREN A. FLAGG,

ESROM J. MORSE,
LIONEL H. ADAMS,
BENJAMIN F. BROOKS,

DAVID R. SIMMONS.

Sealers of Weights and Measures.

FRANK L. HOWARD.

Field Drivers.

DANIEL W. GARDNER,

CLINTON P. HOWARD.

Fence Viewers.

CLINTON P. HOWARD,

LOREN A. FLAGG,

S. G. COPELAND.

Measurers of Lumber.

MOLBRY A. RIPLEY,
CLINTON P. HOWARD,

SAMUEL L. RYDER,
DANIEL B. DAVIS,

Measurers of Wood and Bark.

FRANK H. JONES,
CHARLES E. TISDALE,

J. E. RYDER,
GEORGE F. RYDER,

MOLBRY A. RIPLEY.

Registrars.

JAMES A. FOBES,

JAMES S. JONES,

HORACE BARTLETT.

Auditors.

BENJAMIN B. HOWARD,

GEORGE F. LOGUE.

Pound Keeper.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

Public Weighers.

MICHAEL LOGUE,

CLINTON P. HOWARD.

Annual Report of the Assesors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town January 1, 1899, is respectfully submitted :

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION.

As Assessed May 1, 1898.

Valuation of real estate,	\$970,356.00
Value of personal estate,	266,419.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,231,775.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$570.00	
County tax,	1,449.27	
	<hr/>	2,019.27
Town grant,	\$11,800.00	
Overlay,	595.60	
Subsequent tax,	4.00	
	<hr/>	12,399.60
		<hr/>
Total tax,		\$14,418.87

Rate of tax, \$11.00 per \$1,000. Poll tax, \$2.00.

Number of polls,	435
acres of land,	9,431
dwelling houses,	398

Number of horses,	377
cows,	701
sheep,	16
swine,	135
young stock,	91
fowls,	1,758

APPROPRIATIONS.

For support of schools,	\$4,000.00
school supplies and repairs,	500.00
repairs of highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
support of poor,	1,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	600.00
memorial service,	100.00
transportation of scholars,	450.00
school superintendent,	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$11,800.00

TOWN PROPERTY.

Value of New Almhouse and wood-house,	\$5,000.00
town farm,	3,500.00
personal property,	2,264.00
eight school-houses,	12,300.00
town library,	2,500.00
derrick,	25.00
road scraper,	75.00
4 safes,	500.00
8 snow plows,	56.00
office furniture,	50.00

At the last annual town meeting the town voted to ask the Assessors to abate the tax assessed in 1897 upon the property held in trust by the trustees of the Howard fund. The action of the Assessors in taxing this property, which had never

been taxed before, has been somewhat criticised by some of the citizens of the town.

The Assessors desire to state the grounds upon which such action was taken, that the public may better understand their reasons for so doing.

For several years the late Mrs. Julia A. Drury was taxed for twenty thousand dollars, money at interest. Upon her death it became the duty of the Assessors to trace this property and ascertain to whom it was bequeathed; and how it should be taxed. Upon investigation it was found that all the property of the Drury estate was given in trust to the trustees of the Howard fund.

The question then arose, how much property could the trustees of this fund hold exempt from taxation?

The Assessors, after carefully examining the laws, were unable to see wherein any of the property held by the Board of Trustees was exempt.

Not feeling confident of their own judgment they decided to secure the opinion of Dist. Att. Robert O. Harris, who sustained the Assessors in their opinion.

At the suggestion of one of the trustees the Assessors asked Mr. Harris to take the matter before as able counsel as could be obtained for an opinion. Mr. Harris, therefore, submitted the question to Moorfield Story of Boston, who is considered authority on questions of trusts and corporations, who fully agreed with Mr. Harris' opinion.

The statute law requires the Assessors to thoroughly canvass the town, as soon as possible after the first of May, and use all possible means to find all taxable property and to take oath before a Justice of the Peace, that they have assessed all the property that has come to their knowledge for its full, fair cash value, according to their best knowledge and belief. The Assessors, therefore, with the knowledge which they had, felt obliged to tax this property—which they considered to be both just and legal.

After the town voted to ask the Assessors to abate the tax,

they carefully studied the law upon abatements, and could see no way in which this tax, which they considered legally assessed, could be abated. They, therefore, consulted Mr. Harris upon the question of abatement and also upon the assessment of 1898, and his opinion is as follows:—

E. BRADFORD WILBUR, ESQ., Chairman Board of Assessors.

Dear Sir:—

In answer to your question, whether your Board could legally abate the 1897 tax of property and funds of the Howard Trustees? I have to say, *No*.

In 1897 your Board consulted with me in regard to the propriety of assessing the tax, and with your authority and consent I conferred with counsel in Boston, who is regarded as authority upon questions of trust and taxation. You were advised that it was proper to make the assessment, and you made it. The trustees had the right to apply to you for an abatement and, in case of your refusal to abate, to take an appeal to the Commissioners. This remedy they did not take advantage of. The Statutes of the Commonwealth provide a way for the abatement of an excessive or illegal tax, and that way must be followed. A town, by the vote of its citizens in town meeting, can neither assess or abate a tax; that is the duty of the assessors. Believing your assessment to be legal and valid and no statutory reason for an abatement having been shown, you had no option but were bound to insist upon payment of the tax, notwithstanding the vote in town meeting.

As to your second question in regard to the tax of 1898, it would seem as if Chap. 217, Acts of 1882, sections 1 and 2, was a sufficient answer. That chapter provides that all persons or corporations shall bring in to the Assessors, not later than July 1st of each year, true lists of all real and personal estate held by them for a benevolent, charitable, literary or scientific purpose on the first day of May next preceding. Section 2 is as follows: “If any person or corporation will-

fully omits to bring in the list and statement of real and personal estate, as herein required, the estate so held shall not be exempt from taxation in the then current year, under the provisions of the third clause of section 5 of said chapter," said chapter being chapter 11 of the Public Statutes. As your Board had given the notice to bring in the list and as no list was brought in, the property thereby became taxable without any possible right of exemption, and you were bound to tax it, regardless of any claims of exemption on grounds of literary or charitable uses for which it might be held.

Our Statutes provide for taxation of all property, making, however, certain express exemptions. Nothing is assumed in favor of any property, and the method of showing that any property is exempt, and of obtaining exemption is provided in the Statutes, and that method must be followed if the exemption is to be had. Even in cases of doubt the whole body of taxpayers, and not the particular property, is entitled to the benefit of it, and the tax should be assessed, leaving the holder of the property to prove that the tax is illegal by the appointed method.

This, I believe, answers both your questions.

I am, yours very truly

ROBERT O. HARRIS.

Acting under the above advice we have had no motive except the desire to do our duty as Assessors, to be true and faithful, and to render ourselves worthy of the position in which we have been placed.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	}	<i>Assessors.</i>
SAMUEL G. COPELAND,		
CHARLES E. TISDALE,		

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE JAN. 1st, 1899.

20 tons of English hay,	\$280.00
7 tons meadow and swale hay,	49.00
corn and other grain,	68.60
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels beans,	3.75
13 cows, and 1 bull,	565.00
1 horse,	100.00
58 fowls,	43.50
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels pop corn,	6.75
fertilizer,	7.20
50 bushels potatoes,	35.00
10 bushels turnips,	2.50
1 bushel beets,	.50
100 pounds squash,	1.00
200 pounds pork,	12.00
30 pounds lard,	2.40
45 pounds butter,	9.90
1 barrel flour,	5.00
groceries and molasses,	20.00
40 pounds sugar,	2.00
tea and coffee,	7.42
2 pork barrels,	1.00
soap and oil,	5.83
25 pounds crackers,	1.25
express wagon,	25.00
step ladder,	1.00
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenter's tools,	7.00
1 barrel apples,	3.00
75 pounds rolled oats,	3.00
60 pounds hams and shoulders.	4.80
20 pounds beef,	1.60
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,279.00

Amount brought forward,	\$1,279.00
hay cutter,	2.00
4 stoves, and hot water boiler,	60.00
grind stone,	3.00
wheel hoe,	6.00
household furniture,	216.00
tinware,	10.00
crockery, etc.,	10.00
3 churns,	6.00
wooden ware,	10.00
beds and bedding,	100.00
table linen and towels,	3.00
2 hay wagons,	45.00
1 covered wagon,	35.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
1 pung,	8.00
harnesses,	15.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	6.00
robes and blankets,	4.00
2 mowing machines, rake and tedder,	75.00
6 plows, 3 harrows and other tools,	70.00
horse sled,	5.00
manure and ashes,	100.00
coal,	73.00
2 ladders,	3.00
washing machine,	6.00
wood and lumber,	50.00
10 bushels onions,	8.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,264.00
Inventory January 1st, 1898,	2,569.00
	<hr/>
Loss in inventory,	\$305.00

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1898,	\$158.68
Received for milk,	1,427.78
stock,	362.71
potatoes,	4.50
eggs and poultry,	55.70
vegetables,	28.60
grain bags,	2.00
labor and 3 dinners,	2.25
grind stone,	1.00
Drawn from the Treasury for	
N. W. Bradford,	70.55
G. R. Drake,	19.24
W. C. Whiting,	3.75
E. H. Lothrop,	143.77
E. J. Bean,	322.08
	<hr/>
	\$2,602.61

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	\$53.70
meat,	132.99
grain,	464.14
coal,	92.41
butter and cheese,	65.56
medicine,	6.37
fish,	9.84
clothing,	44.98
repairs,	19.51
labor,	291.97
seeds,	35.39
sugar,	44.71
fertilizer,	40.00
lumber,	1.50
furniture and bedding,	3.50
stock,	446.00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$1,752.57

Amount brought forward,	\$1,752.57
Paid for tools and hardware,	67.41
cash to paupers,	2.05
tobacco,	15.54
smithwork,	19.26
tea and coffee,	23.36
groceries,	73.35
shoes,	14.06
crackers,	7.57
warden's salary,	400.00
soap and oil,	15.59
ice,	9.69
salt,	2.20
crockery and tinware,	8.78
table linen, etc.,	9.60
painting,	89.79
doctor bill,	3.75
Cash on hand,	88.04
	<hr/>
	\$2,602.61

COST OF SUPPORTING POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from treasury per almshouse acct.,	\$559.39	
Loss in inventory,	305.00	
	<hr/>	\$864.39
Cash on hand,		88.04
		<hr/>
		\$776.35

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	86	51
Albert Staples,	56	52
Conn. Sullivan,	64	52
Geo. B. Randall,	72	52
Michael Ryan,	50	52
Ansel Alger,	81	50
Sarah B. Howard,	66	52
Geo. L. Edson,	86	49

The warden during the year has lodged and fed 199 tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Mrs. C. E. Miller,	\$62.00	
Geo. N. Blanchard,	2.75	
Mrs. Hathaway,	5.90	
C. E. Miller, Jr.,	7.00	
Nathaniel Pratt,	23.05	
Isaac H. Bates,	20.00	
Mrs. Kinney,	64.00	
Harriet Packard,	19.50	
Fred Leonard,	208.00	
Merton Churchill's children,	115.00	
Frank Fadden's children,	70.00	
George Dunbar's children,	156.00	
Abigail Fadden,	52.00	
Joseph Morse,	78.00	
Mrs. E. J. Packard,	169.46	
Charles E. Fisher,	31.50	
Arthur P. Packard,	61.75	
Arthur Harvey,	7.50	
John A. W. Alger,	51.66	
Bangs Howes,	24.45	
John Cane,	1.00	
Read's child,	1.25	
Total cost,	<hr/>	\$1,231.77
Due from Easton for Mrs. C. E. Miller,	62.00	
Easton for Geo. N. Blanchard,	2.75	
E. Bridgewater, Mrs. Hathaway,	5.90	
Raynham, C. E. Miller, Jr.,	7.00	
Plympton, N. Pratt,	23.05	
Brockton, Isaac H. Bates,	20.00	
	<hr/>	120.70
Cost to the town,		<hr/> \$1,111.07

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	}	<i>Overseers of the Poor.</i>
S. G. COPELAND,		
CHAS. E. TISDALE,		

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Appropriation,	\$600.00
Paid to E. S. LeLacheur, return of births,	1.00
Town of East Bridgewater, one half expense,	
of surveying town line,	10.10
Frank S. Howard, return of deaths,	2.75
Wm. E. Fay, printing reports,	61.75
Edward Madden, damage to carriage,	5.50
L. A. Flagg, moving treasurers safe,	2.50
Thomas Groom & Co., tax books,	3.75
Mrs. Ruth Brown, return of births,	.75
H. E. Weston, rent of town hall and office,	150.00
A. J. Brouillard, aid to constables,	4.02
A. W. Brownell, assessors blanks,	2.00
Henry Withington, care of monument ground,	5.00
Nathaniel Pratt, care of Godfrey house,	1.05
Frank L. Howard, postal cards,	7.50
Mosler Safe Co., safe,	300.00
Harris & Barker, counsel fees,	25.00
Wm. E. Fay, printing,	15.45
E. B. Wilbur, cash expense, use of team	
postage and stationery,	38.63
Emanuel King, care of old cemetery,	2.00
Howard Clark & Co., office furniture,	7.25
L. E. Hayward, care of old cemetery,	1.00
Clinton P. Howard, lumber for safe,	3.68
A. F. Haridon, land,	5.00
F. P. Hatch, work on safes,	2.60
J. E. Carr & Co., work on pumps,	5.53
W. A. Cole, platform for pumps,	5.00

Paid Wm. Trudeau, brick for safe foundation,	10.40
J. M. Whiting, labor on safe foundation,	13.60
Frank Conlon, labor on safe,	1.80
Geo. R. Drake. telephone and oil,	.60
Joslyn Express Co., moving safes,	12.00
Frank L. Howard, two treasurer's stamps, account book, bill rack, receipts and postage,	10.90
W. F. Whitmarsh, return of births,	.75
Lucy A. Snell, allowance for grading yard,	29.00
	<hr/>
	\$747.86

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$900.00
Paid to B. B. Howard, auditor,	2.50
George F. Logue, auditor and election officer,	4.00
David R. Simmons, cattle inspector,	96.11
David R. Simmons, constable,	8.50
Lional H. Adams, constable,	22.44
Loren A. Flagg, constable,	20.90
D. W. Gardner, constable,	102.82
Benjamin F. Brooks constable,	15.15
Chas. W. Elliott, special officer,	2.50
George S. Drake, election officer,	1.80
Irving E. Wheeler, special officer,	2.50
Curtis Eddy, registrar,	2.10
Horace Bartlett, registrar,	7.80
James A. Fobes, registrar,	7.80
Chas. H. Egan, election officer,	2.00
Chas. R. Packard, town clerk,	69.59
E. B. Wilbur, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	242.75
Chas. E. Tisdale, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	124.00

Paid Samuel G. Copeland, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	104.70
M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee,	11.50
	<hr/>
	851.46
Received from police court of Brockton, fines,	\$35.00
Received from state, one half of inspector's salary,	34.22
Due from state one half of inspector's salary,	13.83
	<hr/>
	\$83.05
	<hr/>
	\$768.41

STATE AID.

Isaac H. Bates,	\$60.00
Geo. N. Blanchard,	72.00
Wm. T. Britton,	72.00
C. E. Churchill and wife,	96.00
Ezekiel W. Chamberlain and wife,	48.00
Wm. Crockett and wife,	108.00
Seth Edson,	48.00
James P. Gallagher,	72.00
Linus E. Hayward and wife,	84.00
Henry Hiatt,	72.00
William H. Jennings,	72.00
James H. Leonard,	48.00
James P. Lincoln,	48.00
Andrew W. Perkins and wife,	100.00
Nathaniel Pratt,	72.00
William B. Smith,	60.00
George. S. Wentworth,	48.00
Mary E. Alger,	48.00
Helen M. Bates,	40.00
Abigal Cole,	44.00

Mary E. Howard,	48.00
Stella E. Howard,	48.00
Elizabeth F. Leonard,	48.00
Hannah R. Stanley,	48.00
Perez C. W. Vaughn,	32.00
Michael Logue,	12.00
Samuel Gammell,	30.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,578.00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in treasury Jan. 1st, 1898,	\$6,877.95
Borrowed of Horatio Howard,	1,000.00
Rec'd of Brockton B. & T. St. R. R. Co.,	1,319.67
" Income from dog fund,	320.94
" Income from school fund,	281.28
" Town of Easton,	4.00
" " East Bridgewater,	16.50
" " Plympton,	32.07
" " Bridgewater,	4.50
" City of Brockton,	10.00
" balance Corporation tax,	33.15
" E. B. Wilbur, auctioneer's license,	2.00
Borrowed East Bridgewater Savings Bank,	2,000.00
Rec'd Fred Fuller, pedlers license,	6.00
" from estate of Mrs. Henry Copeland,	100.00
Borrowed, Edgerly & Crocker,	2,000.00
Rec'd R. O. Harris, state allowance and school supt.,	152.76
" E. P. Dunbar, butchers license,	1.00
" inspection of animals,	296.72
" Prescott Snell, butchers license,	1.00
" State paupers,	22 30
" Brockton and E. B. St. R. R. Co.,	219.75
" Brockton and E. B. St. R. R. Co.,	180.25

Rec'd Corporation tax,	386.95
“ National Bank tax,	436.28
“ State aid,	1,475.00
Borrowed, Plymouth County S. D. & T. Co.,	1,000.00
Rec'd tax list for 1898,	14,418.87
“ police court Brockton, fines,	35.00
	<hr/>
	\$32,633.94

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for State aid,	\$1,578.00
Schools, repairs and supplies,	5,305.87
Schools, transportation,	513.62
Schools, superintendent,	250.00
Memorial,	100.00
Almshouse,	559.39
Library,	386.92
Highways,	3,530.58
Poor out of house,	1,231.77
Incidentals,	747.86
Abatement,	41.64
Town officers,	851.46
Land damage,	1,629.00
County tax,	1,449.27
State tax,	570.00
Horatio Howard, note and interest,	1,050.00
E. Bridgewater Savings Bank, note and int.,	2,051.67
Edgerly & Crocker, note and interest,	2,033.33
Cash and uncollected taxes,	8,753.56
	<hr/>
	\$32,633.94

Condition of Treasury January 1, 1899.

Cash on hand,	\$572.75
Uncollected taxes for 1898,	4,586.81
Due from Geo. M. Pratt,	3,594.00
also interest collected on 1895, 1896 and 1897 taxes.	
	<hr/>
	\$8,753.56

W. Bridgewater, Mass., Jan. 14th, 1899.

We have examined the books and accounts of all the officers intrusted with the receipt, custody or expenditure of money, and all original bills and vouchers on which money has been paid from the treasury of this town, and we find all such books, accounts, bills and vouchers to be correct.

B. B. HOWARD, }
G. F. LOGUE, } *Auditors.*

Outstanding note against the Town, \$1,000.00

REPORT OF COLLECTOR AND TREASURER.

Beginning March 14, 1898.

RECEIPTS.

Geo. M. Pratt, collector of taxes for 1897,	\$3,150.00
E. P. Shaw, bal. corporation tax,	33.15
Brockton Police Court, fines,	35.00
E. Bradford Wilbur, auctioneer's license,	2.00
Borrowed, East Bridgewater Savings Bank,	2,000.00
Fred Fuller, pedlers license,	6.00
Estate of Mrs. Henry Copeland,	100.00
Borrowed of Edgerly & Crocker,	2,000.00
R. O. Harris, state allowance for Supt. of Schools,	152.76
E. P. Dunbar, butchers license,	1.00
E. P. Shaw, Commission of inspection of animals,	296.72
Prescott Snell, butchers license,	1.00
E. P. Shaw, for support of state paupers,	22.30
Brockton & E. Bridgewater St. R. R. Co., land damage,	400.00
E. P. Shaw, corporation tax,	386.95
E. P. Shaw, National Bank tax,	436.28
E. P. Shaw, state aid, Chap. 301, acts of 1889,	1,413.00
E. P. Shaw, burial of indigent sailors and soldiers,	62.00
Borrowed, Plymouth Co. Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,000.00
Tax list for 1898,	14,418.87
	<hr/>
	\$25,917.03

EXPENDITURES.

Paid on orders of selectmen,	\$13,603.20
E. Bridgewater Savings Bank, note and int.,	2,051.67
Edgerly & Crocker, note and int.,	2,033.33
E. P. Shaw, state tax,	570.00
Horatio Howard, note and int.,	1,050.00
Albert Davis, county tax,	1,449.27

Uncollected taxes of 1898,	4,586.81
Cash on hand Dec. 31, 1898,	572.75
	<hr/>
	\$25,917.03

FRANK L. HOWARD,

Collector and Treasurer.

Out standing note against the town,	\$1,000.00
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NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

James A. Fobes,	Azel Lothrop,
George F. Logue,	Frank L. Howard,
William H. Bosworth,	Edwin L. Pratt,
Lionel H. Adams,	Erland Thayer,
Fred A. Perkins,	Henry O. Davenport,
Chas. E. Leonard,	William F. Ryder,
Jonas Hartwell,	Henry W. Leach,
Henry Bartlett,	Lyman E. Copeland,
William A. Cole,	Edwin H. Thayer
David L. Lombard,	Charles H. Fuller,
William H. Washburn,	Ellis R. Holbrook,
David R. Simmons,	James S. Jones,
Ervin Lothrop,	Michael O'Fallon,
Bradford Copeland,	John W. Darling,
William B. Kingman,	Robert H. Hatch.

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1898.

Geo. Burke,	Albert L. Alger,
Herbert W. Packard,	Linus E. Hayward,
Chas. H. Calwell,	David Snow,
Geo. H. Knapp,	Curtis Eddy,
Chas. T. Howard,	Julius Hayward,
	Jacob Atwood.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS.

There has been drawn from the treasury for schools, school repairs and supplies,		\$5,305.87
Appropriation for schools,	\$4,000.00	
Appropriation for school repairs and supplies,	500.00	
Received from school fund,	281.28	
Received from state on account of district supervision,	152.76	
	<hr/>	4,934.04
Overdrawn,		<hr/> \$369.83

. SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

There has been drawn from the treasury for superintendent of schools,	\$250.00
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TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOLARS.

There has been drawn from the treasury for transporting scholars,	\$513.62
Appropriation,	450.00
Overdrawn,	<hr/> \$63.62

LIBRARY.

Drawn from the treasury for the library,	\$386.92
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MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid Charles R. Packard,	100.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks,	\$3,500.00
Drawn from treasury on bills approved by superintendent of streets,	3,530.58
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$30.58

At a meeting of the selectmen, held at their office on March 7th, William F. Ryder was appointed superintendent of streets.

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE:

For the support of poor,	\$1,500.00
transportation of pupils,	450.00
schools,	4,000.00
repairs and supplies,	500.00
highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
town officers,	900.00
incidentals,	600.00
memorial service,	100.00
superintendent of schools,	250.00

The County Commissioners in laying out West Center and North Elm streets made the following assessments and awards for land damage.

ASSESSMENTS.

Upon the Town of West Bridgewater to be rein- bursed by the Brockton, Bridgewater and Taunton Street Railroad Company, and the County,		\$1,754.75
Received from the Brockton, Bridge- water and Taunton Street Rail- road Company,	\$1,319.67	
Due from the County,	435.08	
	<hr/>	\$1,754.75

AWARDS.

Paid	Mary LeBarron,	\$315.00	
	Horace Bartlett,	102.00	
	Joseph C. Howard,	14.00	
	Davis Copeland,	15.00	
	Addison Brooks,	57.25	
	Eliza A. Snell,	100.00	
	T. Prescott Snell,	50.00	
	Margaret O'Conner,	13.00	
	Mary E. Alger,	50.00	
	Charles E. Kinney,	108.50	
	Clinton P. Howard,	108.75	
	Edgar Billings,	15.00	
	Alton Snell,	26.00	
	Frank E. Shaw,	101.00	
	Charles W. Elliott,	5.00	
	Lucy A. Snell,	71.00	
	Rosana B. Morse,	7.50	
	L. Sumner Packard,	13.00	
	Winthrop Howard,	63.00	
	Warren C. Kinney,	156.00	
	Nancy D. Hambley,	117.00	
Due	Edwin M. Bradley,	48.00	
	Samuel N. Howard,	67.50	
	Japhet B. Packard,	5.00	
	James R. Young,	1.00	
	Horatio Howard,	5.00	
	George Shipman,	42.25	
	George Wilbur,	78.00	
		<hr/>	\$1,754.75

The County Commissioners in laying out Matfield, Belmont and Plain streets, made the following assessments and the following awards for land damage :

ASSESSMENTS.

Upon the Town of West Bridgewater, to be reimbursed by the Brockton and East Bridge- water Street Railroad Company and the County,		\$293.00
Received from the Brockton and East Bridgewater Street Railroad Com- pany,	\$219.75	
Due from the County,	73.25	\$293.00
	<hr/>	

AWARDS.

Paid Richard W. Smith,	\$18.00	
Kate B. Rice,	2.00	
Elouisa Packard,	36.00	
James P. Lincoln,	65.00	
Due Jacob Atwood,	38.00	
Deborah Thayer,	20.00	
John Richards,	27.00	
Elijah Richards,	25.00	
Watts Richards,	20.00	
Hattie Richards,	2.00	
Melvin L. Webber,	40.00	
	<hr/>	\$293.00

Received from the Brockton and East Bridgewater Street Railroad Company one hundred and eighty dollars and twenty-five cents (\$180.25), to be expended by the Superintendent of Streets, on Belmont and Plain streets as per agreement with said company.

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth ss :

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater
in the County of Plymouth, Greeting :*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town on Monday, the sixth of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz :

ART. 1. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 3. To bring in their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following question: "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town ?

ART. 4. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 8. To see if the town will appropriate money for necessary transportation of pupils to Grammar Schools.

CAUCUS.

A citizens caucus will be held in Town Hall on Monday evening, Feb. 27th, 1899, at 7.30 o'clock, for the purpose of nominating all town officers for the ensuing year.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
SAMUEL G. COPELAND,	
CHARLES E. TISDALE,	

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

The Superintendent of Streets has approved bills to the following named persons for material and work on the roads and sidewalks :

Charles H. Fuller,	\$114.00
Charles E. Leonard,	118.75
L. A. Flagg,	64.95
John Cashman,	85.50
Thomas Hennessey,	175.10
Samuel B. Hetherington,	54.00
George Hopkins,	480.55
Charles E. Brown,	168.00
George W. Howard,	83.85
Elmer E. Howard,	95.20
Fred J. Hambley,	50.40
Peter Keenan,	73.00
T. Prescott Snell,	113.40
Alger Bros.,	58.57
Horace Bartlett,	106.75
Erank E. Shaw,	22.50
John P. Peterson,	47.60
P. O'Connor est.,	96.70
Edgar Billings,	10.00
E. B. Wilbur,	77.50
Clinton P. Howard,	96.75
Henry Withington,	14.40
John Luddy,	80.40
Joseph S. George,	92.40
Claus Hackenson,	4.00
Joseph C. Howard,	130.45

Antone Peter,	38.45
John Courtney,	19.50
Terrence Keenan,	55.80
George J. Kingman,	49.50
James McAnagh,	49.50
S. G. Copeland,	33.75
W. C. Kinney,	22.00
George A. Hopkins,	8.00
James McFadden,	.60
Daniel Sullivan,	1.00
F. H. Amsden,	1.70
Thomas Alger,	2.20
Philander Lambert,	5.80
H. L. Campbell,	3.20
John Leary,	2.00
H. F. Corkam,	4.30
William L. Cox,	4.40
James Keivney,	8.00
T. F. Wentworth,	3.10
James Keenan,	2.40
E. J. Morse,	3.60
George F. Ryder,	8.20
John A. Norman,	8.80
John Norman,	9.30
H. E. Weston,	1.60
Walter S. Tower,	1.40
Frank Conlon,	3.40
E. P. Dunbar,	17.90
David B. Hall,	1.25
Erland Thayer,	5.30
Ira A. Pratt,	3.30
August Winberg,	3.50
W. H. Linsey,	2.60
Benjamin Morse,	3.00
Charles Shaw,	.80
C. E. Miller,	1.20

John King,	3.00
Manuel King,	3.40
W. A. Wixon,	2.00
Oliver K. Ness, Jr.,	5.20
E. N. Fisher,	10.10
Dana Egan,	4.00
D. R. Simmons,	3.00
E. H. Lothrop,	11.70
L. E. Hayward,	18.80
John Reeves,	43.80
James Clifford,	15.25
George Withington.	5.70
J. M. Howard & Son,	11.50
Patrick McGinn,	4.40
A. H. Lyon,	.80
Patrick McAnaugh,	1.20
Joseph Perry,	1.20
Joseph Sylva,	4.90
James Gilligan,	6.80
James F. Hennessey,	6.80
Augustus Hennessey,	6.80
G. A. Freeman,	3.50
Harry H. Marshall,	4.70
William A. Cole,	4.50
James R. Holbrook,	3.30
Edward Pittsley,	3.10
William Lake,	9.00
Oscar Johnson,	9.00
Nels Johnson,	6.00
William Lyon,	6.00
Philip Kent,	2.00
David Quinlan,	1.20
James Quinlan,	1.20
C. E. Sanborne,	1.95
George G. Tucker,	1.80
C. C. Thayer,	2.60

Henry O. Davenport,	6.10
Frank Echler,	.70
Waldo Brothers,	84.00
N. Y., N. H. & H. R. Road.	7.81
George R. Drake,	.50
William F. Ryder,	296.70
	<hr/>
	\$3,530.58

WILLIAM F. RYDER,

Superintendent.

DEATHS RECORDED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1898.

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DATE	NAME OF DECEASED	Y	M	D	CAUSE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAMES OF PARENTS
1898							
Jan 19	Charles F Norman	14	6	28	Tuberculosis pulmon. acuta....	W Bridgewater	John Norman & Johanna Erickson
“ 21	Willis K Dickerson ...	69	..	..	Pneumonia	Hill, N H	John Dickerson & Adeline Taylor
Feb 13	Barnabas Dunbar	84	10	23	Paralysis	W Bridgewater	Daniel Dunbar & Nicollis Wilbur
Mar 12	Laura F Reed .....	..	6	12	Cong. of Lungs.	Sagamore	Charles Reep & Annie B Blake
“ 19	Eleazer A Cole	72	..	16	Cirrhosis of Liver	Greenwood, Me	Calvin Cole & Betsey Judkins
Apr 15	Stillman F Willis	72	7	24	Mitral Stenoses.	Brockton	Stillman F Willis & Huldah Packard
“ 20	John F McGarry .....	..	4	23	Pneumonia	W Bridgewater	John McGarry & Mary A Connors
May 20	J-remiah Ring	77	..	..	Old Age	Ireland	John Ring & Hannah Reardon
“ 31	David Bartlett	87	3	20	LaGrippe	W Bridgewater	David Bartlett & Polly B Howard
June 22	James C Swan	70	..	20	Pistol wo'd of hd	Easton	Caleb Swan & Ruth Barrell
“ 24	Elijah A Godfrey	56	10	5	Explosion	Taunton	Elijah Godfrey & Betsey Smith
“ 27	Carl A Lindstrom	70	11	29	Paralysis	Sweden	Magnus & Choltorin Lindstrom
July 2	Unknown .....	..	..	1	Found in River, prob. drowned	— — — — —	— — — — —
“ 3	Mary Ames Howard...	78	..	27	Heart Failure...	W Bridgewater	Jonathan Ames & Sally Capen
“ 23	William Penprae...	52	10	7	Gastric Catarrh.	P E Island	John Penprae & Jane Powell
Aug 10	Joseph Vosmus	69	7	30	LaGrippe	Auburn, Me...	Jacob Vosmus & Mary Goss
“ 25	Mary J Tisdale	76	1	20	Catarrhal Pneum.	Rayham	Chandler Dean & — Besse
Sept 13	Daniel P Glass	88	11	5	Dis. Un'y Organs	Duxbury	Ezekiel Glass & Mary Thomas
“ 28	Elwyn F Finch .....	..	8	15	Exha'on, Teeth'g	W Bridgewater	James Finch & Elsie Whitman
“ 30	Joseph F Woodbury...	..	..	15	Chol. Infantum.	“	Norman Woodbury & Mary O Ellis
Oct 2	Experience E Ames...	77	7	21	Hem'ge of Lungs	Brewster	Alvin Howland & Priscilla Clark
“ 4	Lillian Cyr	3	..	..	Meningitis	W Bridgewater	Vital Cyr & Lea Dupuis
“ 7	Ann P Carr	74	..	..	Dysentery	Boston	Unknown
“ 28	Mary A Howard	85	8	25	Old Age	W Bridgewater	Samuel Dunbar & Betsey Lothrop
Nov 22	Stillborn .....	..	..	..	General Debility	N Wrentham ..	Phineas Frost & Clarissa Cleveland
Dec 8	Abigail Cole	89	3	14	Brights Disease.	Freetown	James Pittsley & Mercy Pittsley
“ 18	Edward B Pittsley ...	72	2	21	Ch. Inters'l Neph	South Braintree	G C Mansfield & Harriet L Derby
“ 20	Frances A White	38	11	16	Paresis.	W Bridgewater	Cyrus Alger & Sarah H Hayward
“ 22	Adelaide Nickerson ...	50	8	17	Abscess of Liver	“	John Burke & Lottie May Pittsley
“ 23	Leon Adelbert Burke..	..	4	18	Capillary Bron'is	“	J W Lake & Clementine Cameron
“ 23	John F Lake	3	19			

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1898.

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DATE.	NAME	SEX	NAMES OF PARENTS
1894			
July 16	Frank Perkins Raymond.	Male	Charles W Raymond and Etta J Cook
1896			
May 6	Rosalie Ellis	Female	George W Ellis and Ida M Blake
1897			
December 17	John Francis McGarry	Male	John McGarry and Mary A Conners
1898			
January 14	Elwyn F Finch	Male	James E Finch and Elsie M Whitman
February 1	Illegitimate		
28	Ida May Ellis	Female	George W Ellis and Ida M Blake
March 12	Marie W Pratt	Female	Edwin L Pratt and Mary H Pope
18	Mary Frates	Female	Antone and Amelia Frates
21	George Willard Peterson.	Male	Gustavus A Peterson and Hilma M Johnson
20	Nancy Mary Woodbury	Female	George N Woodbury and Lilla L Dearth
21	Herbert Lenthel Bradford	Male	Charles L Bradford and Florence W Stillman
May 4	Gerald Leslie Wilbur	Male	Nahum J Wilbur and Evelyn D Lyon
24	Cedric Elsworth Marshall.	Male	Harry A Marshall and Ada E DeNeves
24	Mamie Victoria Winberg.	Female	August Winberg and Sophia Lindstrom
June 1	Mary Elizabeth Raymond	Female	Charles W Raymond and Etta J Cook
9	Charles Burguist.	Male	Charles and Lena Burguist
28	David Dewey Cairns	Male	William J Cairns and Ermind Perkins
July 1	Stillborn.		
5	Forest Leon Elliott.	Male	Charles W Elliott and Emma B Lowell
14	Bessie May Wixon.	Female	Joshua F Wixon and Matilda M Miller
26	John D Sullivan	Male	John L Sullivan and Margaret E McDonald
September 4	John F Lake	Male	John W Lake and Clementine Cameron
5	Leon Adelbert Burke.	Male	John Burke and Lottie May Pittsley
15	Joseph Franklin Woodbury.	Male	Norman Woodbury and Mary O Ellis
5	Eunice May Logue.	Female	George F Logue and Belle B Alger
21	Forrest Edward Martin.	Male	John A Martin and Margaret E Duggan
October 1	Blanche Chassez	Female	Theophile Chassez and Adele Perry
December 1	Mary Gannett Ryder.	Female	George F Ryder and Grace M Adams
12	Agnes Gertrude Hennessey	Female	James W Hennessey and Margaret A Scanlon
29			

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

*Marriages Registered in West Bridgewater
during the year 1898.*

- Jan. 11. Edmond Copeland of West Bridgewater and May Alice Hartwell, of Brockton.
- Jan. 15. John E. Blake and Lydia A. Packard, both of W. Bridgewater.
- May 26. Fred T. Congdon, of Easton, and Ida F. Wood, of West Bridgewater.
- May 27. Thomas Quinlan, of West Bridgewater, and Margaret F. Seaver, of Newfoundland.
- June 1. Thomas Gorman, of West Bridgewater, and Mary MacNeil, of Bridgewater.
- June 22; Jesse H. Bourne, of Foxboro, and Alice D. Eddy, of West Bridgewater.
- July 5. John H. Blake, of West Bridgewater, and Mattie C. Weaver, of Brockton.
- July 5. Grant W. E. White, of West Bridgewater, and Jessie M. Thomas, of Hyde Park.
- July 6. Arthur D. Copeland, of Brockton, and Jessie Janet Lothrop, of West Bridgewater.
- July 10. Shepard E. Wilbar, and Emma F. T. Vaughan, both of Brockton.
- Oct. 6. Michael Gorman and Mary Ellen Golden, both of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 24. Arthur J. Parker, of West Bridgewater, and Catherine McOnnel, of Brockton.

NOTE.—Intention of marriage by William F. Bósworth, of West Bridgewater, and Mildred E. Jennings, of Fredricton, N. B., recorded June 3d, but no returns of certificate received.

REPORT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

During the year 1898 there have been added to the library, by purchase, 123 volumes.

By the will of the late Mrs. Julia A. Drury 121 volumes, as well as a large number of unbound magazines, have been received by the library. Mr. F. E. Howard has also donated 26 volumes. The number of bound volumes now on the shelves is 4,989.

The number of books issued by the librarian in 1898, and the classes to which they belong, is as follows, viz:—

Agriculture,	2
Art,	3
Biography,	125
Fiction,	2,027
General Literature,	244
History,	171
Humerous Works,	22
Juvenile Work,	825
Magazines,	707
Poetry,	103
Reference Works,	3
Religion and Theology,	10
Science,	86
Travels,	48
Public Documents,	12
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	4,388

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

From Town Treasurer,	\$386.92
sales of catalogues, cards and fines,	8.59
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	\$395.51

Expenditures.

Estes & Lauriat, for books,	\$124.53
Librarian's salary,	150.00
Material and labor for new shelves,	31.57
Magazines,	31.10
C. A. Howland, books,	7.25
F. J. Barnard & Co., binding,	18.37
Balch Bros. Co.,	16.80
C. P. Howard, wood,	4.00
Printing regulations,	2.50
Postage, express, oil acct.,	9.21
Balance to new account,	.18
	<hr/>
	\$395.51

The Cornelia Alger bequest, having been deposited in the East Bridgewater Savings Bank, now amounts to \$842.32.

Respectfully submitted for the trustees of the Public Library.

CHAS. R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1898 the following were members of the school committee:

MRS. M. K. CROSBY, MRS. C. H. COPELAND, for three years.

E. E. BROWN, W. H. BOSWORTH, for two years.

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR, C. P. HOWARD, for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows:

A. S. LELACHEUR, *Chairman*.

M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.

W. H. BOSWORTH, C. P. HOWARD and E. E. BROWN,
Committee on Repairs.

The schools were assigned as follows:

North to Mrs. Copeland.

Cochesett to E. E. Brown.

Centre to Mrs. LeLacheur.

South to C. P. Howard.

East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.

Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

To A. S. LeLacheur, M. K. Crosby and C. H. Copeland was assigned the approval of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby was appointed agent for school supplies.

L. A. Flagg, D. W. Gardner and C. H. Eagan were chosen to act as truant officers.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS.

Miss G. A. Smith,	36 weeks,	\$360.00
Miss E. A. Morrow,	36 "	500.00
Miss I. S. Wood,	36 "	360.00
Miss R. L. MacDonald,	36 "	499.96
Miss M. W. Haskell,	36 "	324.00
Miss W. A. Holmes,	36 "	432.00
Miss E. M. Dunn,	36 "	360.00
Miss M. A. Dewyer,	36 "	432.00
Miss A. M. Seyser,	36 "	360.00
Miss E. D. Loring, (3 weeks, 1897)	24 weeks,	240.00
Miss B. H. Dickerson,	15 weeks,	120.00
Miss A. M. Barnes, music,		119.00
Conveyance of music teacher,		52.50
		<hr/>
		\$4,159.46

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$14.00
Cochesett,	26.00
Centre,	28.00
South,	14.00
East,	14.00
Matfield,	14.00
North,	14.00
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	\$124.00

REFERENCE BOOKS AND APPARATUS.

Periodicals from E. W. Nutter, 1897,	\$19.50
Periodicals from E. W. Nutter, 1898,	12.54
2 copies Youth's Companion,	3.75
Portfolio of Life, 2 copies,	10.00
Outlines of Nature Study, 9 copies,	1.80
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	\$47.59

FUEL.

Paid E. H. Lothrop, 7 tons white ash coal,	\$42.00
H. Withington, labor,	18.00
L. E. Hayward, labor,	7.50
C. C. Thayer, 4 cords hard wood,	20.00
C. P. Howard, 1 cord pine, $5\frac{1}{2}$ hard (labor)	36.00
B. Copeland, 3 cords hard, 1 cord pine, (labor)	25.00
Wm. Penpraese, labor,	20.00
E. T. Snell, 1 cord pine, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cords oak,	11.50
S. H. Marshall, 5 cords hard, 1 cord soft,	29.00
Ernest Edlund, labor,	2.50
E. H. Thayer, 3 cords pine,	12.00
G. Ellis, labor,	18.00
C. G. Manley, 4 cords hard, 1 cord pine,	22.00
G. Lindsay, labor,	2.70
	<hr/>
	\$266.20

TRANSPORTATION.

Paid L. A. Flagg, coach,	\$160.40
Mrs. A. J. Edson, coach,	57.30
O. W. Fuller, coach,	61.12
	<hr/>
	\$278.82
Paid for tickets on electric cars,	234.80
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	\$513.62

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' wages,	\$4,159.46
Fuel,	266.20
Janitors,	124.00
Transportation ,	513.62
Reference books and periodicals,	47.59
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	\$5,110.87

RECEIPTS.

Town grant,	\$4,450.00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	281.28
On account of district supervision,	152.76
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	\$4.884.04

REPAIRS.

General Repairs and Incidentals.

Paid J. M. Whiting, labor and stock,	\$13.37
L. Richmond & Co., labor and stock,	13.36
Isam Mitchell, stock, (Centre)	26.26
S. D. Bartlett, labor and stock,	35.15
J. L. Fairbanks, furnace and labor, (Centre)	137.80
J. L. Fairbanks, sink, labor on stoves and stock,	24.58
W. L. Wedger, steel ceiling, (Cochesett)	39.78
Wm. Cole, labor, (Cochesett)	19.04
C. P. Howard, grading at 4 schools,	26.02
Expense for diplomas,	3.65
Jarvis Burrill, printing,	12.39
Pump at Jerusalem,	5.70
D. W. Gardner, constable service,	2.75
C. H. Eagan, constable service,	1.00
Footwear for A. E. Cobbett's children,	3.30
4 pairs shoes for Arthur Packard's children,	4.40
Expenses of Supt. G. C. Howard, 1897,	8.20
Express and postage for supplies, etc.,	9.01
Incidentals and furnishings,	3.83
	<hr/>
	\$389.59

Small Repairs, Furnishings and Cleaning.

Jerusalem,	\$5.68
Cochesett,	19.25
Centre,	10.57

East,	6.64
Matfield,	5.22
North,	4.65
South,	4.65
	<hr/>
	\$56.66

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid J. L. Hammett & Co., readers and histories,	\$12.75
J. L. Hammett & Co., general supplies,	67.80
Silver, Burdett & Co., music readers,	16.00
Silver, Burdett & Co., Ward's Rational readers,	48.74
E. E. Babb & Co., text books,	22.14
E. E. Babb & Co., general supplies,	29.15
University Publishing Co., readers,	31.52
Ginn & Co., arithmetics and geographies,	16.77
Macmillan Co., grammars,	7.50
Leach, Shewell & Co., physiologies,	10.00
Express for supplies,	3.00
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	\$265.37
Whole amount of repairs,	446.25
Cost of school supplies,	265.37
	<hr/>
Total,	\$711.62
Sale of text books.	3.00
Town grant for repairs and supplies,	500.00
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	\$503.00

New Supplies on Hand Dec. 31, 1898.

Readers, geographies, arithmetics, etc.,	44.96
Paper, copy books and general supplies,	17.69
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	\$62.65

Inventory of stock, Jan. 1, 1898,	\$50.96
Amount drawn from treasury,	262.37
Inventory of new stock, Dec. 31. 1898,	62.65
Supplies furnished schools,	250.68

The average membership in the schools for the year has been 261.29 and the cost of supplies furnished by the town has been \$250.68, or 96 cents per scholar.

The school census for May 1, 1898, gave 291 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of these 260 were in the common schools, 7 (over 14 years) at work, 7 sick, 14 young and not yet in school and 3 out for other reasons.

Miss Laughton, principal of the Howard school, speaks very favorably of the earnest and satisfactory work of our town pupils in the High School department.

The last class admitted, which is the first from the recently established ninth grade of our grammar schools, shows a thorough preparation secured in that grade.

The number of pupils attending the High School in the Fall term was 14.

CALENDAR FOR 1899.

WINTER TERM, January 9 to March 24, 1899. Eleven weeks.

Vacation, two weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 10 to June 16. Ten weeks.

Vacation, thirteen weeks.

FALL TERM, September 11 to December 22. Fifteen weeks.

Recess. Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

Vacation, two weeks.

WINTER TERM, 1900 January 8.

Changes may be made in this to accommodate different schools.

The report of our present Superintendent, Mr. Frank O. Jones, who has been in charge of our schools since the first

of last March, will give the impressions of an unprejudiced observer and offer suggestions to help in bringing the schools into harmony with educational progress.

We trust that the citizens of our town will manifest a cordial co-operation with Mr. Jones, as they have always towards his predecessors.

Receipts from the State School Fund were nearly \$100 less than in 1887.

The cost of conveyance for pupils exceeded the appropriation for that purpose, but tickets to the amount of \$42.48 remained at the close of the year, for use on the electric roads. Twenty-three pupils received tickets—8 of these from Matfield—requiring 4 tickets daily: 8 of the other 15 pupils received tickets for use only in bad weather.

One book of 100 tickets will, with proper use, suffice for the year, as there is usually much good walking in winter.

Some of the improvements proposed for the grammar building at the Centre were deferred until another year; but in view of the urgent need of better accommodations the committee decided to put in a furnace, and finish off a girls' cloak room in the basement. The increased convenience and comfort fully justify this expenditure.

It became necessary to repair the shattered ceiling in the primary room at Cochesett, and this was replaced by a steel ceiling which, with the attendant labor, increased our repair account considerably.

That the pupils at the Centre Grammar school may sit as healthfully and comfortably as those of Cochesett we ask for a special grant of \$300 for new desks, and a floor to which these can be firmly fastened.

We recommend the following appropriations:

For the support of schools,	\$4,000.00
repairs and incidentals,	300.00
text-books and supplies,	200.00
conveyance of pupils,	450.00
new desks and floor at Centre,	300.00

At the annual meeting it will be necessary to choose two members for three years.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. LELACHEUR,	}	<i>School</i>
M. K. CROSBY,		
C. H. COPELAND,		<i>Committee.</i>
W. H. BOSWORTH,		
C. P. HOWARD,		
E. E. BROWN,)	

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of the Town of West Bridgewater :

I herewith submit my first annual report as Superintendent of Schools of the town of West Bridgewater. It is also the seventh of the series of annual reports since the formation of this union district. Through this report I shall try to describe the educational affairs as they have existed in the town of West Bridgewater during the past year, and to set forth the future needs of the schools.

The following statistics will be of value for comparison with those of previous years.

Number of schools,	9
Number of teachers required,	10
Number of teachers employed during year,	11
Number of pupils in town between the ages of 5 and 15 years, as shown by the census of	
May, 1898,	291
May, 1897,	263
May, 1896,	261
Number of children in town between the ages of 8 and 14 years, May 1st,	163
Number of pupils enrolled on school registers during year,	330
Number of pupils enrolled between the ages of 8 and 14 years,	196
Number of pupils enrolled over 15 years,	4
Average membership,	261.029
Center Grammar, 51.388 North,	25.738
Center Primary, 31.054 South,	22.55
Cochesett Grammar, 28.216 East,	19.64
Cochesett Primary, 21.75 Matfield,	40.733
Jerusalem, 20.32	

Average attendance,			242.55
Center Grammar	48.062	North,	23.62
Center Primary,	29.304	South,	18.67
Cocheset Grammar,	26.65	East,	18.2
Cochesett Primary,	20.08	Matfield,	38.222
Jerusalem,	19.8		
Per cent. of attendance,			.929
Center Grammar,	.935	North,	.917
Center Primary,	.943	South,	.83
Cochesett Grammar,	.944	East,	.93
Cochesett Primary,	.92	Matfield,	.946
Jerusalem,	.974		
Per cent. of attendance, 1897,			.912

THE YEAR'S WORK.

Coming into the district as I did, after the year was well begun, I studied existing conditions to find where the most attention was needed. My predecessor, in accordance with his views derived from several years of experience with your schools, had just arranged a course of study which, in its fundamental points, I have not changed, for it assuredly deserves a fair trial. I have endeavored, however, to enrich this course by re-arousing in the schools an interest in both nature study and drawing.

Inasmuch as it is claimed that nature study had its origin in the town of West Bridgewater, it is pathetic that this valuable subject should have been allowed to fall into neglect and finally to lose its place in the regular curriculum. The value of education lies not in the ability of the one who receives it to retain an encyclopædic knowledge of the unrelated facts; but, in the ability of the scholar to see everything concerning him and his environment in its right relations, to know the principles of life's problems, in short, to make the most of himself. While arithmetic, language, and geography are essential subjects for study, it is exceedingly important

that the pupil's powers of observation be developed that he may appreciate the works of nature, their beauty, their relation and usefulness to man. If he learns to observe and know the every-day forms of nature about him, his interest will be kept alive, his sympathies will be broadened, and his life will mean more to him. The value of nature study, as it is taught in schools to-day, lies largely in its capacity for developing these powers of observation. It is this elementary work which leads up to the understanding of the higher sciences and aids the pupil to find the relations of the facts and to apply the principles of those sciences. Some pupils find it difficult to retain book learning, and gradually grow to dislike school work. They can, however, learn to tell the direction of the wind, the signs of the weather, the character of frost, dew, and other natural phenomena, the kinds of plants and their uses, and the many things taken up in the study of nature. They can understand these objects which they can see and touch, and the impressions of which they can join to those impressions gained from their own former experience. They quickly recognize that here is something practical, something that will help them in their every-day life. There are many of us lacking this form of early instruction, who, upon taking up some new science, feel our inability to associate the new facts which are presented to us, with those of our early experiences in ordinary life. We find the new subject difficult because we cannot readily see these relations between the new and the old. Then we realize that, if, in our childhood, some teacher had taken pains to cultivate our powers of observation and association, our capacity for knowledge and the enjoyment of it, would have been immeasurably enlarged.

I dwell at length upon this theme because there are some in the district, and among them even teachers of the schools, who hold that there is no time in these partly graded schools of ours to take up the study of nature. If there is time to teach geography, there should be time to teach elementary science,

and the live teacher will see numberless opportunities to correlate the study of nature with that of geography, and of language. Through this means but little extra time is taken while not only the object of nature study is being accomplished, but also there is added to the regular subject an enlivening "many-sided" interest.

Drawing, as well as nature study, has been much neglected throughout the district, although the pupils of certain individual teachers have been doing excellent work in that subject. The value of the study of drawing in training the hand and eye, in helping to a knowledge of form and proportion, and, as the work advances, in leading up to the appreciation of art, as well as its value in all branches requiring illustration, is too well known to need further remarks here. During the school year, in the elementary grades, this study has been taken up in connection with the nature work as far as practicable in accordance with the plan advocated by the State Supervisor of Drawing.

The work in music has been ably directed by Miss Barnes. I wish to call your careful attention to her report in which she has set forth the value of music as a factor in education.

I am in sympathy with the movement begun by my predecessor, by which standard literature, instead of the old-fashioned readers, is being placed in the hands of pupils above the fourth grade.

I believe that, through this means, an early taste for good literature is being developed which testifies to the wisdom of the plan.

The "Rational Method" in reading, which has been used with the beginners the past year, is, in my opinion, a marked success. I have been surprised at the ease with which the children taught by Mr. Ward's method have handled reading matter which, under the ordinary systems in reading, would have been considered far too difficult for pupils of their age and grade. This method is a happy combination of the word and phonetic systems. The word method alone demanded

a prodigious exercise of the memory, which was discouraging to the child; the new system requires the learning only of a sufficient number of words for a ground-work to provide a key and to make the child self-reliant. In the old-time phonetic system, the pupil found great difficulty in blending the many varied sounds into which words were divided; in the new system, by means of "phonograms," as the phonetic parts of words are called, the words are less minutely divided and the blending of sounds is much more easily accomplished.

The scheme of term examinations, which I found in vogue in the district, had certain prominent faults which I have endeavored to modify. According to that system, the superintendent made out a uniform set of questions for the whole district, at the close of each term, upon the work laid out in the course of study. This plan has elements both of strength and weakness: strength, in that it helps to secure and maintain uniformity in the work and consequent ease of supervision; weakness, in that, like the centralized Regents' system of New York State, it tends toward dry-as-dust machine instruction. The tendency is for the teacher to work with the one end in mind, that the children must answer that set of ten questions made out by the superintendent. She hesitates to teach anything outside of the text limited by a set number of pages prescribed by the course, and thus to broaden the general knowledge of the pupil, for she knows that her value to the superintendent is measured by the number of children who receive high marks in the test. She, therefore, tries to focus their attention upon those prescribed pages, and trains and drills in an effort to create little automatons who, upon the pressure of a certain spring, will stand forth and, in perfect unison, do the same phonographic act. The saving feature is that her plan does not always succeed. Once in a while a child has an internal mechanism which she cannot reach and fashion like the others, and then come the strange answers which astonish and mystify the teacher. Too often, however, her plan does succeed—a

result which stifles all real interest in school work. It would be a less evil for one teacher to take up percentage while another with the same grade was teaching fractions, than to deaden the natural curiosity of the child by narrowing his vision to a few set pages; a less evil to increase the work of the superintendent than to destroy the individuality of both teacher and pupil.

With a view to remedy in part this mechanical effect of the uniform examinations, and yet to maintain uniformity in the work, I instituted a plan which was tried for the first time at the close of the fall term. Each teacher was assigned certain subjects—for instance, one teacher was given geography and language for stated grades, and another, history and arithmetic, and so on—and asked to make out and send to the superintendent ten test questions in each of those branches, so that, finally, the superintendent would have usually about six sets of ten questions each upon every subject for examination. From these sixty questions the superintendent chose ten, or twelve with a choice of ten, and distributed them to the teachers for their term examinations. Through the execution of this scheme in which so many take part in the test-making, questions of great variety in form result, and the tendency toward a stereotyped mode of questioning, to which a single examiner is liable, is largely obviated. As the teacher has a hand in shaping the tests, she feels that she may be a little more independent in her work through the term, and that she need not wholly restrain her own individuality nor that of her pupil.

The superintendent, likewise, has his part in the choice of questions; and the fact that these lists from the several teachers pass through his hands, gives him an opportunity to gain a pretty accurate idea of the manner in which the teachers have handled the different subjects in the class room.

I realize that the plan as outlined does away but in part with the objections to uniform examinations here-in-before stated. In the ideal system, the teacher, subject of course to sugges-

tions from the superintendent, would do her own work in her own way and give her own examinations when she thought they were necessary; but existing circumstances seem to make it preferable for the present, though the system is open to serious criticism, to have the examinations chiefly under the individual control of the superintendent. One reason for this is the fact that the conditions governing the three towns of the district are greatly varied, making unification of the work important in order that the duties of supervision may be simplified. Another reason, not applying, however, to this town, is the frequent change of teachers, due to an insufficient appropriation for salaries. These changes render it impossible to depend upon the teachers to sustain effectively a policy initiated by the superintendent. In this town, at least, where valuable services on the part of the teachers receive substantial recognition, in consequence of which, a tenure of office of more than ordinary length exists, I hope, at no distant time, to have so thorough an understanding with the teachers that, with their co-operation, I may carry out a definite policy without the deadening influence of centralized examinations.

Up to the present time, teachers' meetings have been held as often as seemed practicable, and I hope to make them of more frequent occurrence in the future. Besides discussing general plans and methods, I have endeavored to add interest to the meetings and to give an opportunity for increased efficiency on the part of the teaching force by conducting a course in professional reading.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

As an important measure for the future improvement of your schools, I wish to recommend a better system of grading. The Cochesett Grammar School contains at present four grades. The amount of labor to be performed in teaching the four upper grades where there is so much written work to be

examined, is far too great for one teacher. This condition of affairs may be corrected with but little difficulty. A good suggestion has been made, that the ninth grade be transported to the Center Grammar School where there are two teachers to handle five grades. The coach which carries the children from Jerusalem to Cochesett could easily continue its route to the Center, so that no extra conveyance would be needed. Unless some unforeseen objection should arise, this plan could be put into execution immediately.

The time is coming, however, in the near future, when a more radical change will be necessary. I will outline for your consideration a plan for lessening the number of grades in the outlying schools, and I hope to make plain to you the growing necessity for such a measure. Apparently, the only feasible arrangement is to convey the children of the sixth grade from the outlying districts to the Center. There are now twelve of these pupils—and it is not probable that they will average less than that in the future—who, together with the ninth grade from Cochesett, now numbering six, would make eighteen to be added to the fifty-five pupils already in the Center Grammar. Since this total would overcrowd the building as at present arranged, and since better results could be obtained from further consolidation, I recommend that, as soon as the necessary funds can be appropriated, accommodations for more pupils be made at the Center Grammar School. This could be done with no very large expenditure by raising the roof of the building and thus gaining space for a room above the present one. An intermediate department could be maintained in one room and a grammar department in the other. Then, if it seemed best, still another grade from the outer districts could be carried to the Center. In order that no primary teacher should have more than four grades, the fifth grade of the Cochesett Primary could pass to the grammar room, and the eighth as well as the ninth grade of the grammar department could be conveyed to the Center. Thus each primary school would contain four grades, and

none of the upper departments would contain more than three. The electric cars and the coach now employed would furnish all necessary conveyance except for the pupils from the East School, for whom another coach would be required. If this plan should leave too few pupils in any outlying school, the building could be closed and all the pupils, according to location, taken either to the Center or Cochesett. Consolidation of schools is going on rapidly in many of the progressive country towns of the state. It simplifies the administration of the schools and makes it possible to secure better instruction. The money which is used for the maintenance of a school will more than pay for the transportation of its pupils, so that the amount saved may be used toward securing better central accommodations, or in lengthening the school year. I do not expect that all these changes can take place immediately. By carrying the plan into effect gradually, however, your schools would be on a basis for steady improvement. That a teacher can give better instruction to four grades than to six, is a self-evident truth.

There is another reason of rapidly growing importance why the teachers should be placed in charge of fewer grades. To keep pace with educational advancement throughout the country, in a short time our system of promotions must undergo a decided change. A protest is going up from progressive educators, against the "lock step" scheme of grading and promoting. Under the present system of promoting but once a year, a bright pupil may be ever so capable of advancing faster than his class, yet the leap from one grade to the next is too great for him. On the other hand, if a pupil is rather dull and cannot keep up with his class, or if for illness or other reason he is necessarily absent for a time, he must drop back a full year to the class below. Thus no allowance is made for the differing capacities of the children. The bright pupil is held back and made to "mark time"; the dull pupil is pushed ahead faster than he should go. The former is injured by idleness; the latter by lack of thoroughness.

By means of this machine-like system of grading and promotions, kept in running order by the uniform examinations, the bright, the mediocre, and the dull are all fashioned alike; the individual is lost sight of; without respect to differences in ability and effort, the tendency is to reduce the unfortunate children to "symmetrical nonentities".

Within the last few years, a number of schemes of more flexible grading have been evolved which have been of assistance in ameliorating the evils of the hard-and-fast system of yearly promotions.

The group system of classification has been adopted in many places, apparently with gratifying results. Mr. Prince, in the *Educational Review* for last March, quoted the plan of the superintendent at Leominster as follows: "In the lowest grades we divide pupils into four or five groups, higher grades into three, and sometimes possibly only two. Pupils pass readily from one group to the next higher without the so-called 'jump' whereby a certain amount of work is always lost. Pupils in the most advanced group in a room are doing about the same work as pupils in the lowest division or group of the next higher room. This enables pupils to go readily from one group to another, and at the same time also from one room to another."

In a recent number of the *Journal of Education*, Superintendent Lewis of Hastings, Minnesota, writes as follows of his plan: "In 1878, I divided the work in the grades below the high school into twenty-four, instead of the eight parts into which they were then divided, so there was only twelve weeks instead of a year's work between classes." The weak pupil has only to drop back twelve weeks to find a class where he can work to advantage. The bright pupil has but a gap of twelve weeks to cover in order to "gain a class." Mr. Hastings says further: Thus it is apparent that we deal with individuals as well as with groups. We have no such thing as promotion of classes; a group simply progresses from one division of the work to another, or as we say from term to

term, regardless of the vacations ; but when a pupil closes the gap between his own and the class above, there is an 'individual promotion' at whatever time of the year or day of the week he is ready for promotion."

These are but two of many similar plans. I have given you these outlines that you may gain an idea of the reform which our own school system must soon undergo if we are to escape the dead formalism of our present plan, and keep pace with modern educational progress. The change of systems could be brought about much more easily in this town if the present grading were simplified as I have suggested in the early part of these recommendations. In consequence of the better distribution of the work, the teachers would take hold of the new plan with better courage and we could feel reasonably confident of final success. These measures which look toward more elastic grading, demand your serious attention, and I trust they will receive your hearty co-operation.

This report would not be complete without a word concerning the High School as conducted at the Howard Seminary. Miss Laughton, the new principal of the Seminary, has expressed an earnest desire to do all she can for the town and its people, and to establish closer relations between the town schools and the High School. She has placed this department in charge of Miss Grant who has had much experience in the line of work required, and hopes, with the concurrence of the citizens, to make the High School popular and prosperous. I suggest to the townspeople that they take pains to become familiar with the institution in question and to come into close touch with its teachers and principal. The mutual interest thus aroused would be a social and material benefit both to the Seminary and to the town.

I ask you, parents and citizens, to do what you can also to establish a warmer sympathy between yourselves and the teachers of the common schools. Do not wait for public exercises ; visit the schools when they are doing every-day work. By your presence, you will arouse the pupils and inspire the

teachers to stronger effort. Become familiar with the needs and merits of the schools, and the committee, the teachers, and the superintendent will appreciate your advice and co-operation.

I wish to express my sincere approbation of the faithful work and loyalty of the teachers. I thank the citizens for the courtesy they have shown me, and the members of the committee for their kind assistance and valuable counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK O. JONES,

Superintendent of Schools.

EAST BRIDGEWATER, Jan. 1899.

REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC.

Town of West Bridgewater.

Education consists in developing the intellect, and a study has value in so far as it is a developer.

Music deals largely with the emotions and by means of this power has great advantages in the development of the child mind. For when we have reached the emotional side of the child, we have reached to the depths of the soul, and then that soul is ours for grand development.

Music in the public schools can be made to serve many purposes; some of these we have accomplished in our work the past year.

Music as music has a value; it also has a great value as an assistant along other lines of study.

Nothing so directly aids in the development of the sense of hearing as music. Work with this end in view is constantly given in the lower grades.

Songs of the seasons help largely in the nature work, which study to-day is threading so generally the work in primary grades. The patriotic songs have assisted in the instilling of patriotism; they also serve as a means of inspiration.

All teachers have probably discovered the value of song in changing the mental and moral atmosphere of the schoolroom, especially in the lower grades.

It is in the primary grades the rote song has found its home; and it is here the scale and scale relation of tones is mastered.

In these grades is first presented the idea of rhythm and intervals. But to have music serve a high purpose in the upper grades, the technique must be acquired.

In the lower grades it is absorbed, as it were, by repeated presentation; in the upper it is acquired through study. Ere

the ninth grade work is finished the pupils should be familiar with all the standard keys, and acquire an ability to read and sing in any of these at sight; understand the use and beauty of chromatics, and appreciate rhythm in all its forms; also have a clear idea of the major and minor effects in music.

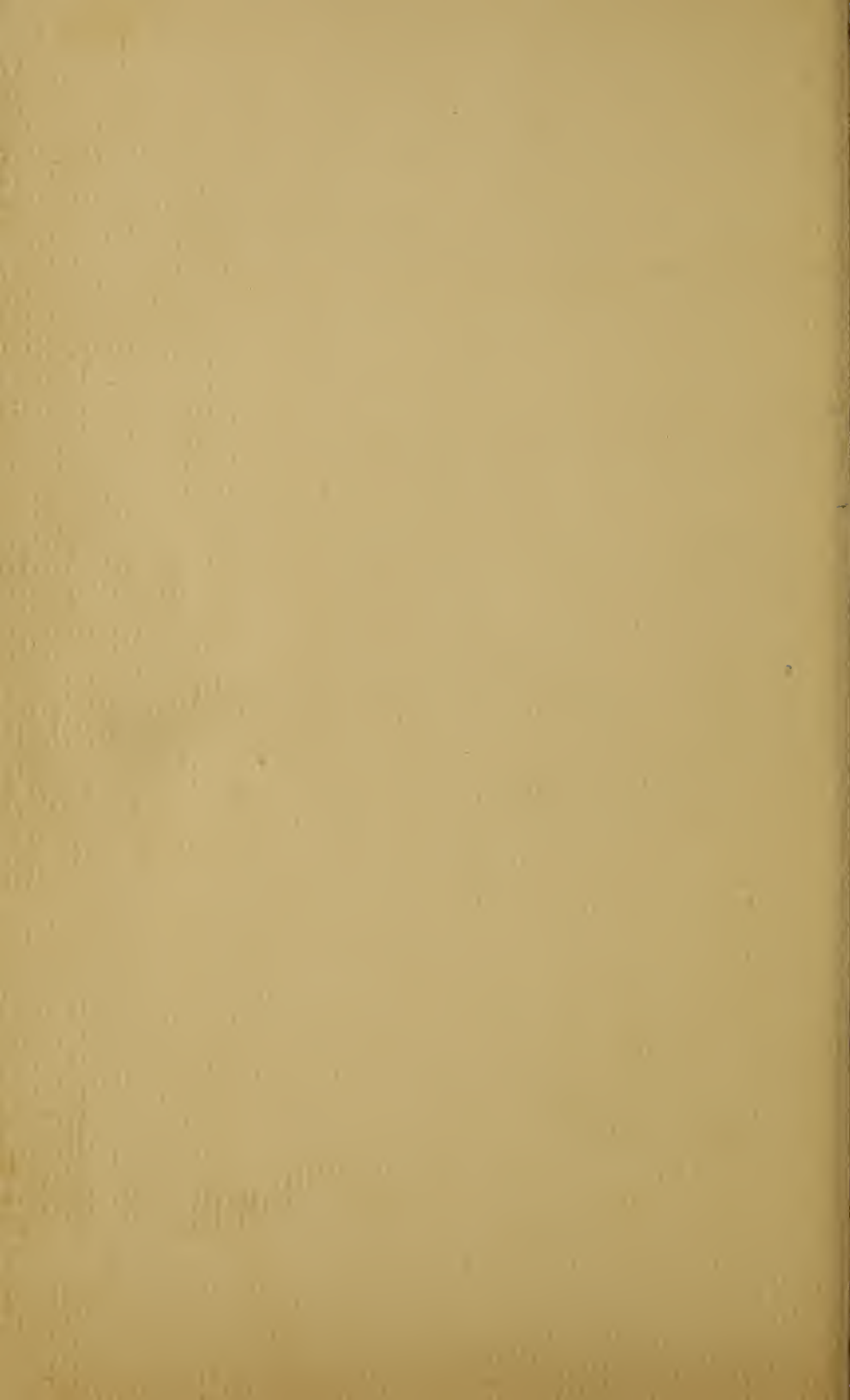
Our purpose is to give pupils a thorough foundation in the art of singing and reading music, not forgetting that the growing voice must have proper attention for its own right development, and for the production of pure, sweet, musical tones.

It has also been our endeavor to so present and develop our subject that the lives of our pupils will be sweetened, broadened and inspired thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNIE M. BARNES,

Supervisor of Music.

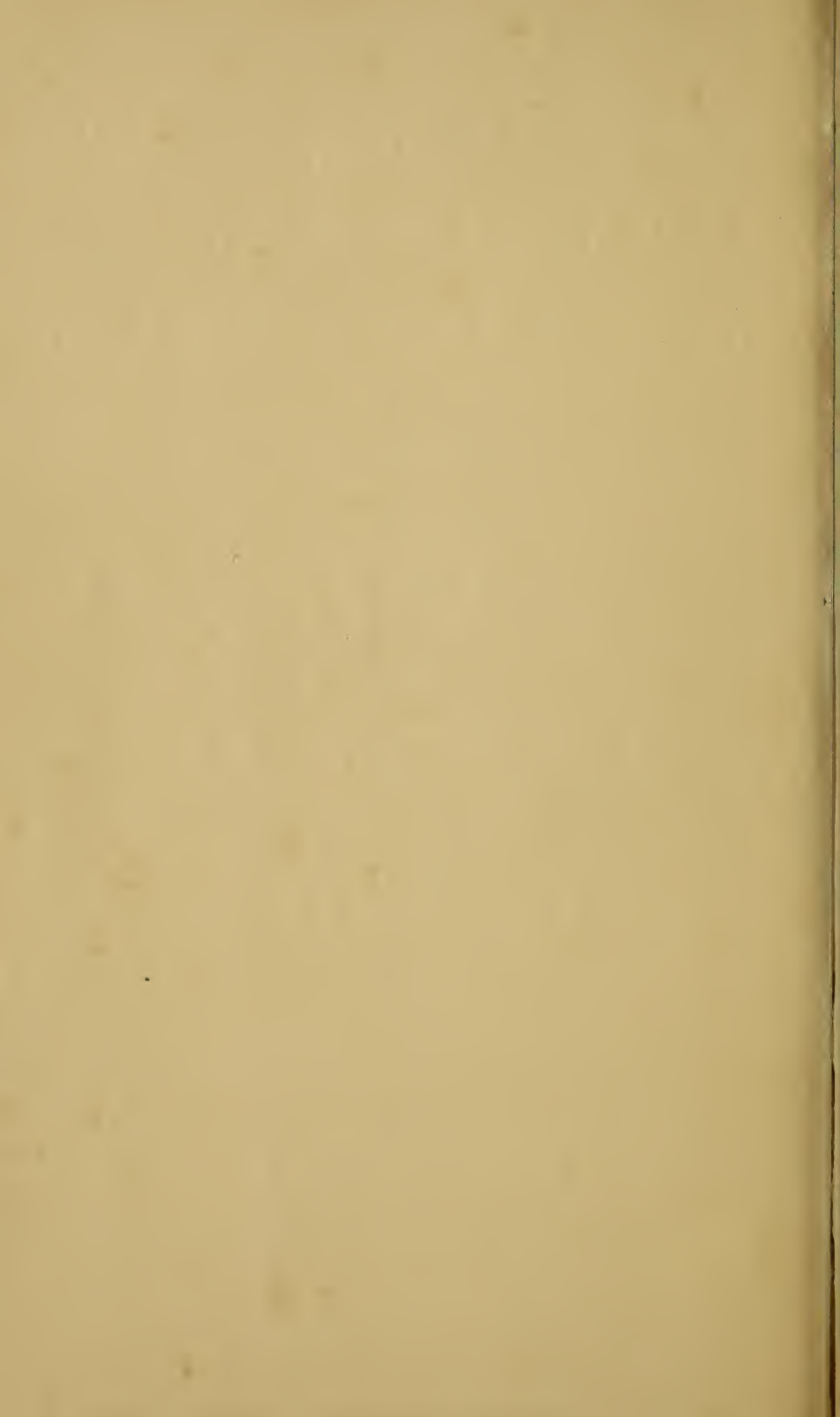


*TOWN OFFICERS AND
COMMITTEES OF
WEST BRIDGEWATER*

*A N N U A L
R E P O R T
I 8 9 9*

*WEST BRIDGEWATER
MASSACHUSETTS*

1 9 0 0



ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
OF
WEST BRIDGEWATER
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1900.

TAUNTON:
PRINTED BY C. A. HACK & SON,
1900.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1899.

Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR, SAMUEL G. COPELAND,
CHARLES E. TISDALE, (deceased.)

Town Clerk.

CHAREES R. PACKARD.

Treasurer and Collector.

FRANK L. HOWARD.

School Committee.

MRS. A. L. LELACHEUR, CAROLINE H. COPELAND,
MRS. M. K. CROSBY, WILLIAM H. BOSWORTH,
CLINTON P. HOWARD, EDWARD E. BROWN.

Trustees of Public Library.

CHARLES R. PACKARD, MRS. CHARLOTTE A. WILLIAMS,
MISS ELIZABETH KINGMAM, MISS EDITH F. HOWARD,
CURTIS EDDY, ELLIS S. LELACHEUR,

Superintendent of Streets.

WILLIAM F. RYDER.

Constables.

HERBERT W. PACKARD, IRVING E. WHEELER,
BENJAMIN F. BROOKS, ESROM J. MORSE,
CHARLES H. EGAN, DAVID R. SIMMONS,

LIONEL H. ADAMS.

Sealer of Weights and Measures.

FRANK L. HOWARD.

Field Drivers.

CLINTON P. HOWARD, THOMAS HENNESSEY.

Fence Viewers.

CLINTON P. HOWARD, SAMUEL G. COPELAND, DAVID R. SIMMONS.

Measurers of Lumber.

CLINTON P. HOWARD, DANIEL B. DAVIS,
FRANK H. JONES, MELBRY A. RIPLEY.

Measurers of Wood and Bark.

EDWIN H. THAYER, CHAS. R. PACKARD,
FRANK H. JONES, CLINTON P. HOWARD,

HORACE BARTLETT.

Registrars of Voters.

HORACE BARTLETT, JAMES S. JONES, ARTHUR C. PECKHAM.

Auditors.

GEORGE F. LOGUE, GEORGE S. DRAKE.

Pound Keeper.

WARDEN OF TOWN FARM.

Public Weighers.

ARTHUR E. CLARKE, JAMES O. ALGER,
EDWARD MADDEN, EDWIN LOTHROP,
CLINTON P. HOWARD.

Annual Report of the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Selectmen.

The following report of the financial condition of the town January 1, ~~1890~~, is respectfully submitted :

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

VALUATION.

As Assessed May 1, 1899.

Valuation of real estate,	\$975,912.00
Value of personal estate,	241,258.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,217,170.00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$570.00	
County tax,	1,449.27	
	<hr/>	2,019.27
Town grant,	12,200.00	
Overlay,	674.59	
Subsequent tax,	2.29	
	<hr/>	12,876.88
Total tax,		<hr/>
		\$14,896.15

Rate of tax, \$11.50 per \$1,000. Poll tax, \$2.00.

Number of polls,	447
“ acres of land,	9,434
“ dwelling houses,	400

Number of horses,	316
“ cows,	673
“ sheep,	16
“ swine,	124
“ young stock,	109
“ fowl,	1,538

APPROPRIATIONS.

For support of schools,		\$4,000.00
“ supplies and repairs,		500.00
“ transportation of pupils,		450.00
“ support of poor,		1,500.00
“ highways and sidewalks,	\$3,500.00	}
“ street railway tax,	484.14	
“ town officers,		900.00
“ incidentals,		600.00
“ superintendent of schools,		250.00
“ new floor and desks at Center Grammar School,		300.00
“ Memorial Day,		100.00
“ flag staff,		100.00
		<hr/>
		\$12,684.14

TOWN PROPERTY.

Value of New Almshouse and wood house,	\$5,000.00
“ town farm,	3,500.00
“ personal property,	2,558.50
“ eight school-houses,	12,300.00
“ town library,	2,500.00
“ derriek,	25.00
“ road scraper,	75.00
“ four safes,	500.00
“ eight snow plows,	56.00
“ office furniture,	50.00

E. BRADFORD WILBUR, }
 SAMUEL G. COPELAND, } *Assessors.*

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

INVENTORY AT ALMSHOUSE JAN. 1, 1900.

10 tons of English hay,	\$180.00
10 tons of meadow and swale hay,	100.00
corn and other grain,	83.00
4 bushels beans,	6.00
13 cows and 1 bull,	555.00
2 oxen,	155.00
1 horse,	100.00
65 fowl,	48.75
2½ bushels pop corn,	3.75
600 lbs. fertilizer,	9.00
55 bushels potatoes,	37.00
150 bushels turnips,	37.50
1 ton corn fodder,	7.00
100 lbs. quash,	1.00
corn planter,	20.00
4 hogs,	30.00
20 lbs. lard,	2.00
35 lbs. butter,	10.50
2 bbls. flour,	9.00
groceries and molasses,	18.00
290 lbs. sugar,	15.00
tea and coffee,	5.00
2 pork barrels,	1.00
soap and oil,	8.00
20 lbs. crackers,	1.00
20 lbs. fish,	1.20
dried apples,	1.00
30 lbs. rolled oats,	1.20
10 lbs. rice,	.60
4 bush onions,	3.00
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,449.50

Amount brought forward,	\$1,449.50
10 gallons of vinegar,	2.00
corn sheller,	4.00
carpenter tools and vise,	10.00
step ladder,	1.00
express wagon,	25.00
2 hay carts,	45.00
1 covered wagon,	35.00
2 tip carts,	50.00
1 pung,	6.00
harnesses,	30.00
ox sled and wheelbarrow,	6.00
3 ox yokes,	6.00
2 hay cutters,	5.00
4 stoves and hot water boiler,	60.00
grind stone,	3.00
wheel hoe,	3.00
2 mowing machines, rake and tedder,	75.00
6 plows, 3 harrows and other tools,	60.00
horse sled,	5.00
2 ladders,	3.00
washing machine,	6.00
robes and blankets,	4.00
beds and bedding,	100.00
household furniture,	215.00
tinware,	10.00
crockery,	10.00
wooden ware,	9.00
table linen, towles,	4.00
3 churns,	5.00
coal,	72.00
manure and ashes,	100.00
wood,	50.00
lumber,	90.00
	<hr/>
Inventory, January 1st, 1899,	\$2,558.50
	2,264.00
	<hr/>
Gain in inventory,	\$294.50

RECEIPTS AT ALMSHOUSE.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1899,	\$88.04
Received for milk,	1,375.06
" stock,	45.75
" potatoes,	11.98
" eggs and poultry,	54.90
" vegetables,	8.25
" use of stock,	.50
" lumber,	179.00
" wood,	102.00
" hay,	52.00
Horace Bartlett, trustee, for board of Sarah B. Howard, from May 4, '98, to January 1, 1900,	193.50
Drawn from the Treasury for	
E. H. Lothrop,	374.33
J. E. Sawyer,	235.00
H. E. Scott.	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,760.31

EXPENDITURES AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for flour,	52.80
" meat,	166.62
" grain,	601.74
" coal,	86.80
" butter and cheese,	67.63
" fish,	17.33
" doctor bill,	11.45
" veterinary's bill,	13.00
" clothing,	28.41
" repairs,	5.05
" labor,	232.56
" labor on wood and lumber,	139.90
" seeds,	18.01
" lumber,	1.56
	<hr/>
Amount brought forward,	\$1,442.86

Amount brought forward,	\$1,442.86
Paid for sugar and molasses,	56.26
“ fertilizer,	82.50
“ stock,	223.50
“ tools,	34.60
“ hardware,	14.12
“ cash to paupers,	1.25
“ tobacco,	10.60
“ saw bill,	83.13
“ smith work,	34.15
“ tea and coffee,	18.12
“ groceries,	68.26
“ boots and shoes,	14.30
“ crackers,	4.23
“ warden's salary,	362.50
“ soap and oil,	14.34
“ ice,	11.05
“ salt,	3.25
“ crockery, glass and tinware,	3.95
“ table linen, etc.,	1.75
“ paint,	2.08
“ lard,	12.68
“ barb wire,	6.48
“ harness,	16.00
“ milk cooler,	6.91
“ vinegar,	4.06
“ matches,	1.31
“ rolled oats,	6.50
“ beans,	7.90
“ apples and turnips,	4.73
“ yeast,	1.62
“ hay,	50.00
Cash on hand,	155.32
	<hr/>
	\$2,760.31

COST OF SUPPORTING POOR AT ALMSHOUSE.

Drawn from treasury per almshouse acct.,		\$649.33
Gain in inventory,	\$294.50	
Cash on hand,	155,32	\$449.82
		<hr/>
		179.51

INMATES AT ALMSHOUSE.

	AGE.	WEEKS.
Edmund Alger,	87	52
Albert Staples,	57	52
Conn. Sullivan,	65	33
George B. Randall,	73	52
Ansel Alger,	82	52
George L. Edison,	87	52
Sarah B. Howard, (boarder),	67	52
Michael Ryan,	51	8

The warden during the year has lodged and fed 138 tramps.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Aid to Theodore F. Wentworth,	\$37.00
“ Mrs. Kinney,	64.00
“ Mrs. R. B. Morse,	3.00
“ John A. W. Alger,	20.16
“ Arthur Packard,	197.70
“ Henry Withington,	84.26
“ Ansel T. Bartlett,	24.00
“ Mrs Ruth Brown,	4.00
“ Mertons G. Churchill’s children,	171.50
“ Fred Leonard,	178.00
“ Mrs. William Gorman,	6.24
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$789.86

Amount brought forward,	\$789.86
Aid to George Kinnear,	21.00
“ George Dunbar’s children,	156.00
“ Mrs. Harriet Packard,	121.45
“ Isaac H. Bates,	81.25
“ Mrs. George Ellis and family,	10.25
“ Frank Fadden’s child,	64.25
“ Mrs. Joseph Morse,	123.00
“ George W. Blanchard,	20.00
“ Mrs. E. J. Packard,	169.46
“ Mrs. Abbie Fadden,	52.00
“ Charles E. Fisher,	55.50
“ Nathaniel Pratt,	44.63
“ Mary Leach and child,	23.00
“ Mrs. Richard Westcoat and children,	29.00

\$1,760.65

Received from Merton G. Churchill,	\$88.00
Due from the town of Easton,	20.00
“ “ city of Brockton,	81.25
“ “ town of Dighton,	29.00
“ “ “ Bridgewater,	37.00
“ “ “ Plympton,	44.36
“ “ State, for Geo. Kinnear,	21.00
“ “ “ Mrs. Geo. Ellis,	10.25
“ “ “ Mrs. Ruth Brown,	4.00

334.86

Cost to the town,	\$1,425.79
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E. BRADFORD WILBUR, } *Overseers*
SAMUEL G. COPELAND, } *of the Poor.*

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Paid to Howard Clark & Co., return of deaths,	1.00
“ C. L. McCann, “ “	1.75
“ Elihu Leonard, for burying a child,	2.00
“ Boston Globe, advertising,	1.88
“ F. L. Howard, postal cards, postage, etc.,	22.43
“ P. A. Aubertin, counsel in Clark case, } by order of B. F. Brooks, }	10.00
“ Wm. E. Fay, printing,	19.75
“ C. A. Hack & Son,	56.20
“ Thomas Groom, tax books,	2.75
“ H. E. Weston, 18 mos. rent hall and office,	225.00
“ G. R. Drake, rope for flag staff, telephone, etc.,	4.88
“ F. S. Howard, return of deaths,	4.75
“ F. E. Howard, interest on Copeland fund,	4.00
“ D. R. Simmons, burying a dog,	1.50
“ G. M. Pratt, deeds and expense,	6.36
“ George R. Bailey, services in Churchill care,	6.10
“ C. P. Hilstrum, repairs on pump,	4.50
“ Henry Withington, care of monument grounds,	5.00
“ J. O. Alger, irons for safe foundations,	11.29
“ L. E. Hayward, care of old cemetery,	1.00
“ S. B. Hethering, cutting wood at office,	2.00
“ Mrs. S. B. Hetherington, cleaning office,	.75
“ E. S. LeLacheur, returning births,	1.50
“ Harris & Barker, counsel fees in Foye } case, Churchill case, and other } questions of law, }	31.10
“ E. B. Wilbur, use of horse, cash ex- pense, postage, etc.	36.13
“ S. G. Copeland, wood for office,	5.00
“ Philip Fay, care of old cemetery,	2.00

 \$470.62

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation,	\$900.00
Paid to D. R. Simmons, inspector,	120.65
“ D. R. Simmons, constable,	36.10
“ George F. Logue, auditor,	2.50
“ George F. Logue, election officer,	1.50
“ Arthur C. Peckham, “ “	1.50
“ Frank L. Howard, town treasurer,	200.00
“ B. F. Brooks, constable,	8.00
“ Howard B. Wilbur, moderator,	5.00
“ M. K. Crosby, clerk of school committee, and use of team,	16.50
“ L. H. Adams, constable,	8.00
“ E. J. Morse, “	17.93
“ E. B. Wilbur, selectman, assessor and over- seer of the poor,	248.25
“ S. G. Copeland, selectman, assessor and over- seer of the poor,	100.00
“ C. E. Tisdale, selectman, assessor and over- seer of the poor,	112.60
“ J. S. Jones, registrar,	6.90
“ Irving Wheeler, constable,	5.00
“ D. W. Gardner, constable,	2.00
“ Horace Bartlett, registrar,	14.70
“ G. T. Shaw, special constable,	2.00
“ Herbert W. Packard, constable,	7.00
“ Charles H. Egan, election officer,	2.00
“ C. R. Packard, town clerk,	65.58
	<hr/>
	\$983.71
Received from Brockton police court, fines,	135.00
	<hr/>
	\$848.71

STATE AID.

Paid to	Isaac H. Bates,	\$60.00
"	George N. Blanchard,	72.00
"	William T. Britton,	24.00
"	Charles E. Churchill and wife,	96.00
"	William Crockett and wife,	108.00
"	Seth Edson,	48.00
"	James P. Gallagher,	72.00
"	Samuel Gammell,	24.00
"	Lnus E. Hayward and wife,	84.00
"	William H. Jennings,	72.00
"	James H. Leonard,	48.00
"	James P. Lincoln,	48.00
"	Andrew Perkins,	120.00
"	Nathaniel Pratt,	72.00
"	William B. Smith,	68.00
"	George S. Wentworth,	48.00
"	Mary E. Alger,	48.00
"	Mary E. Howard,	48.00
"	Elizabeth F. Leonard,	44.00
"	Hannah R. Stanley,	32.00
"	Michael Logue,	44.00
"	Willard Howard,	48.00
"	William E. Cole,	16.00
"	Henry Hiatt,	72.00
"	Samuel D. Bartlett,	10.00
"	F. S. Howard, burial of Henry Withington,	35.00
"	F. S. Howard, " " Mrs. E. F. Leonard,	35.00
		<hr/>
		\$1,496.00

NAMES OF JURORS.

For acceptance or revision by the town at its annual meeting.

Henry W. Ripley,
Seba H. Marshall,
William H. Bosworth,
Lionel H. Adams,
Everett Clark,
Charles E. Leonard,
Henry Bartlett,
Henry Hartwell,
William A. Cole,
William H. Washburn,
Frank L. Howland,
Edward E. Brown,
Bradford Copeland,
William B. Kingman,
Octave Belmore,

Azel Lothrop,
Frank L. Howard,
John E. Caldwell,
Henry O. Davenport,
William F. Ryder,
Charles E. Dunbar,
Myron H. Packard,
Edwin H. Thayer,
Ellis R. Holbrook,
Michael O. Fallon,
John W. Darling,
Robert H. Hatch,
John M. Richards,
Clinton P. Howard,
T. Prescott Snell.

NAMES OF JURORS DRAWN IN 1899.

James S. Jones,
Henry W. Leach,
Farnham Gillespie,
Edwin L. Pratt,

Fred A. Perkins,
David L. Lombard,
George F. Logue,
Jonas Hartwell.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS.

There has been drawn from the treasury for		
schools, school repairs and supplies,		\$5,547.30
Appropriation for schools,	\$4,000.00	
Appropriat'n, school repairs and supplies,	500.00	
Appropriat'n, new floor and desks at Center,	300.00	
Received from school fund,	294.43	
Received from state on account of		
district supervision,	166.67	
	<hr/>	5,261.10
Overdrawn,		<hr/> \$286.20

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

There has been drawn from the treasury for superintendent of schools,	\$250.00
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TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOLS.

There has been drawn from the treasury for transporting scholars,	\$446.52
Appropriation,	450.00

There has been drawn from treasury for library,	\$398.50
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FLAG STAFF.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid Benjamin R. Kinney,	100.00

MEMORIAL.

Appropriation,	\$100.00
Paid C. H. Fuller,	3.00
“ Mrs. J. H. Martin,	2.80
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$94.20

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for roads and sidewalks :

Town grant,	\$3,500.00
Street railway tax,	484.14
	<hr/>
	\$3,984.14
Drawn from the treasury on bills approved by the superintendent of streets,	3,945.40
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$38.74

At a meeting of the selectmen, held at their office March 7,
William F. Rider was appointed superintendent of streets.

WE RECOMMEND THE TOWN TO APPROPRIATE :

For the support of poor,	\$1,500.00
“ transportation of pupils,	450.00
“ schools,	4,000.00
“ repairs and supplies,	500.00
“ highways and sidewalks,	3,500.00
“ town officers,	900.00

TOWN MEETING.

Plymouth ss :

*To any Constable of the Town of West Bridgewater
in the County of Plymouth, Greeting :*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote at elections and in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, in said town on Monday, the fifth of March, at one o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz :

ART. 1. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To choose all necessary town officers.

ART. 3. To bring in their votes " Yes " or " No " on the following question : " Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town ? "

ART. 4. To hear the annual report of town officers and committees, and act thereon.

ART. 5. To act on the list of jurors as reported by the selectmen.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

ART. 7. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay charges against the town.

ART. 8. To see if the town will appropriate money for necessary transportation of pupils to Grammar Schools.

CAUCUS.

A citizens caucus will be held in Town Hall on Monday evening, Feb. 26, 1900, at 7.30 o'clock, for the purpose of nominating all town officers for the ensuing year.

E. BRADFORD WILBUR, }
SAMUEL G. COPELAND, } *Selectmen.*

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in treasury Jan. 1, 1899,	\$8,753.56
Dog fund,	326.69
School fund,	294.43
Town of Easton,	64.75
Town of East Bridgewater,	5.90
City of Brockton,	20 00
Edgerly & Crocker,	2,000.00
Town of Raynham,	7.00
E. P. Shaw, corporation tax,	23.50
Street railway tax,	334.30
Plymouth County Safe Deposit & Trust Co.,	2,000.00
State, for education of children,	47.50
Town of Plymouth,	23.05
People's Savings Bank, Brockton.	1,000.00
R. O. Harris, State allowance supt. schools,	166.67
Prescott Snell, butcher's license,	1.00
Edgerly & Crocker,	1,000.00
Brockton & Taunton Street R'y, commutation tax,	149.13
Brockton & East Bridgewater Street Railway, com- mutation tax,	16.72
Corporation tax,	407.96
National Bank tax,	425.30
State aid,	1,578.00
Street railway tax,	318.29
Brockton police court,	135.00
G. M. Pratt, interest on 1895-6-7 taxes,	201.59
Merton G. Churchill,	88.00
County treas'r, land damage, Center and Elm Sts.,	438.68
Tax list for 1899,	14,896.15
Interest on 1898 taxes,	84 90
	<hr/>
	\$34,808.07

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for State aid,	\$1,496.00
Land damages,	388.75
Library,	398.50
Flag-staff,	100.00
Memorial,	5.80
Town officers,	983.71
Alms-house,	649.33
School superintendent,	250.00
Abatements,	72.63
Highways,	3,945.40
Schools,	5,993.82
Incidentals,	470.62
Poor out of house,	1,760.65
People's Savings Bank, note and interest,	1,010.00
Plymouth County Safe Deposit Trust & Co., note and interest,	1,031.00
Edgerly & Crocker, note and interest,	2,050.00
County tax,	1,449.27
State tax,	570.00
Penalty for failure to make returns,	18.00
Plymouth County Safe Deposit & Trust Co., note and interest,	2,046.07
Cash and uncollected taxes,	10,118.52
	<hr/>
	\$34,808.07

Condition of Treasury January 1, 1900.

Cash on hand,	\$635.41
Uncollected taxes, 1898, 1899,	6,706.47
Due from G. M. Pratt,	2,776.64
	<hr/>
	\$10,118.52

W. Bridgewater, Mass., Jan. 14th, 1900.

We have examined the books and accounts of all the officers intrusted with the receipt, custody or expenditure of money, and all original bills and vouchers on which money has been paid from the treasury of this town, and we find all such books, accounts, bills and vouchers to be correct.

G. S. DRAKE, }
G. F. LOGUE, } *Auditors.*

Outstanding note against the Town, \$1,000.00

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

The Superintendent of Street has approved bills to the following named persons for material and work on the roads and sidewalks:

L. E. & E. Copeland,	\$12.45
E. T. Snell,	8.00
C. M. Howard,	6.00
Charles Burgquist,	8.40
August Burgquist,	9.80
O. K. Ness,	11.00
Andrew Monson,	16.40
W. W. Jones,	2.80
Warren A. Leonard,	2.60
George Millay,	1.60
Elmer C. Snell,	3.00
S. N. Howard,	.80
William A Cole,	4.30
John Norman,	33.00
William Lake,	6.00
Oscar Johnson,	5.00
R. C. Fields,	2.10
Joseph Sylva,	6.50
Emanuël Eovell,	6.40
George Freeman,	4.90
James Finch,	3.20
Alfred Lawson,	6.70
F. J. O'Connor,	4.80
A. O'Connor,	2.80
P. O'Connor, est.,	108.55
John Courtney, Jr.,	4.40
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$281.50

Amount brought forward,	\$281.50
David R. Simmons,	1.50
Clinton P. Howard,	123.15
Nels Johnson,	4.00
Ernest Tisdale,	.35
O. W. Fuller,	1.00
George H. Evans,	4.00
Unite K. Leach,	3.70
John Sands,	3.00
Frank Conlon,	3.60
Nels Chelgren,	1.20
D. W. Lambert,	4.70
Charles K. Ness,	4.00
Charles E. Brown,	44.00
F. J. Miller,	1.40
Leonard W. Hunt,	3.00
John P. Peterson,	75.00
William F. Ryder,	333.35
Thomas Hennessey,	190.50
Joseph O'Neil,	9.60
L. H. Adams,	1.25
James O. Alger,	10.25
William L. Woodworth,	4.00
James McAnaugh,	49.50
Linus E. Hayward,	8.08
Anson E. Cobbett,	.90
Charles E. Leonard,	125.50
Frank Sylva,	16.00
George J. Kingman,	49.50
Albert Manley,	29.69
Emanuel Sylva,	4.00
Samuel Holmes,	85.00
Bradford Copeland,	10.60
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$1,486.82

Amount brought forward,	\$1,486.82
Albert A. Packard,	3.00
C. C. Fowler,	2.00
Walter S. Tower,	3.80
Erland Thayer,	5.00
Benjamin R. Kinney,	3.60
David Frahar,	3.20
Henry Withington,	8.40
John Reeves,	2.20
Burton Fields,	2 20
James Kavney,	4.00
Charles H. Fuller,	108.80
C. H. Sanborn,	4.90
George J. Donahue,	1.60
W. H. Lindsay,	1.40
Michael Quinlin,	1.60
Patrick Quinlin,	1.60
George F. Ryder,	60.00
Joseph F. George,	213.40
Antone Peter.	2.10
John Sylva,	2.10
Henry O. Davenport,	11.30
Warren C. Kinney,	15.75
Eddy P. Dunbar,	4.60
H. L. Campbell,	1.40
David Daily,	2.00
Elmer E. Howard,	102.60
John Cashman,	6.00
Harry S. Hall,	2.00
E. N. Fisher,	70.85
Joseph C. Howard,	105.85
F. J. Hambley,	8.00
Emanuel King,	2.60
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$2,254.67

Amount brought forward,	\$2,254.67
Peter Keenan,	4.40
John Courtney,	4.00
Hugh Gombley,	5.40
John McGerry,	5.40
Mathew McGerry,	5.40
T. F. Wentworth,	4.60
Charles Wentworth,	4.60
Samuel B. Hetherington,	62.80
John J. Gilligan,	8.40
A. J. Hennessey,	6.50
James F. Hennessey,	6.50
George W. Blake,	6.40
Channing F. Dunbar,	6.80
George Hopkins,	534.70
Phylander Lambert,	6.00
Jacob Atwood,	1 40
Z. Perry,	1 40
Henry Nute,	2.40
Oscar Nute,	1.40
Milton C. Thayer,	3.20
George Withington,	8.85
Frank E. Shaw,	33.00
I. Austin Pratt,	2.00
Hiram E. Weston,	1.40
Arthur Weston,	2 10
W. S. Cox,	4.00
H. Corkham,	4.00
Patrick McGinn,	16.60
Terence Keenan,	4.60
James Keenan,	132.20
Ira A. Pratt,	17.10
Walter E. Packard,	2.60
Amount carried forward,	<hr/> \$3,162.82

Amount brought forward,	\$,3162.82
Wilbur Kingsley,	67.90
Frank P. Hatch,	3.35
Michael McCarthy,	4.60
Joseph E. Ryder,	1.00
Antone Emerall,	87.65
Patrick Keenan,	2.40
T. Prescott Snell,	116.50
Lester P. Ripley,	1.20
Enos Veara,	57.50
George W. Howard,	90.00
James P. Lincoln,	2.20
Horace Bartlett,	113.70
George W. Ellis,	35.00
Alger Brothers,	99.35
Willard Howard,	2.50
S. G. Copeland,	74.25
George Burk,	6.25
E. H. Lothrop,	8.75
G. R. Drake,	4.73
Albert L. Alger,	2.00
Oliver Brady,	.75
Thomas Kennedy,	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,945.40

WILLIAM F. RYDER,
Superintendent.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages registered in West Bridgewater in 1899.

- Jan. 5. Patrick Kent, of West Bridgewater, to Margaret O'Brien, of Bridgewater.
- Jan. 26. William Brady, of South Weymouth, to Minnie Keenan, of West Bridgewater.
- Mar. 4. Edward Perkins, of West Bridgewater, to Fanny G. Taber, of Plymouth.
- Apr. 15. William F. Shipman, of West Bridgewater, to Lydia H. Stetson, of Brockton.
- Apr. 19. Dyke W. Tobey, to Edith Allerton Tower, both of West Bridgewater.
- May 14. Louis Vermeire, of West Bridgewater, to Lucy K. Willis of Brockton.
- June 11. Frederick O. Packer, to Isabelle E. Kingsbury, both of West Bridgewater.
- June 14. Cyrus Washburn, of West Bridgewater, to Lucy Evelyn Moulton, of Abington.
- Aug. 8. James F. Chamberlain, of Brockton, to Bertha A. Southworth, of West Bridgewater.
- Aug. 12. John Carlson, of West Bridgewater, to Emily Anderson, of Boston.
- Oct. 12. Charles H. Cobb, to Cora A. Stewart, both of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 20. Benjamin F. Chamberlain, of Bridgewater, to Lillian W. Pratt, of West Bridgewater.
- Nov. 29. Manuel de Medeiros, of Brockton, to Marie de Almeida, of West Bridgewater.
- Dec. 25. Hosea F. Woodbury, of West Bridgewater, to Florence J. Dearth, of Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1899.

DATE.	NAME.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1898			
February 27	Laurence Axel Jepson.....	Male	Axel Jepson and Angenora Dustin
February 1899			
January 21	Jesse George	Male	Joseph George and Mary Frater
February 9	Illegitimate.....	Female.....	Fred T. Congdon and Ida Frances Wood
" 11	Mildred Francis Congdon.....	Female.....	John H. Wakelin and Harriet Corkum
" 24	Eva May Wakelin.....	Female.....	James T. O'Brien and Margaret Roach
April 1	Margaret O'Brien	Male	James R. Robertson and Sarah J. Robertson
" 6	James Robertson.....	Male	Mike Antone and Lena Gogo
" 30	Frank Antone.....	Male	Herbert A. Lothrop and Jennie W. McLeod
May 14	Leon A. Lothrop.....	Female.....	J. Arthur Kilpatrick and Edith A. Carpenter
June 16	Gladys A. Kilpatrick.	Female.....	Francis P. Maguire and Nellie A. McAnagh
" 17	Francis Philip Maguire.....	Female.....	George B. White and H. Avis Morse
July 2	.....	Female.....	William Brady and Mary Alice Keenan
" 20	Mary Alice Brady	Female.....	Jose Cabrel and Julia A. Andrada
August 1	Jose Cabrel.....	Male	Lester P. Ripley and Mary J. Hunter
" 14	Clara Marlene Ripley.	Female.....	Paul Revere and Lucy L. Tisdale
" 15	Pauline Revere	Female.....	Henry W. Parry and Catherine McLean
" 21	Maud Parry.....	Female.....	John L. Sullivan and Margaret E. McDonald
" 21	Mary Lillian Sullivan	Female.....	Willard V. Crosby and Elizabeth G. Sherrick
September 16	Charles Arthur Crosby.....	Male	George W. Parry and Susan Middleton
" 22	George W. Parry.....	Male	Patrick E. Kent and Maggie O'Brien
October 23	Philip Edward Kent.....	Male	Thomas Luddy and Nellie T. O'Brien
November 2	William Thomas Luddy.....	Male	William A. Madden and Katie A. Nash
" 14	James Joseph Madden	Male	Stephen O'Neil and Margaret Conneys
December 29	Stephen Francis O'Neil.....	Male	

DEATHS RECORDED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1899.

27

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Y.	M.	D.	CAUSE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1899							
Jan. 6	Ellen Ryan.....	48			Cancer of rectum	Ireland...	Thomas Ryan & Catherine O'Neil
" 9	George Wilbur.....	83	8	26	Erysipelas.....	Maine.....	Marshal Wilbur & Phebe Leonard
" 9	Stella E. Hayward.....	80	6		Bronchitis.....	Easton.....	Alanson White & Rebecca Billings
" 13	Mary Joseph Cabrel.....	4	1	22	Convulsions.....	W. Bridgewater	Joseph Cabrel & Julia Aguest
" 13	Charles H. Dunbar.....	87	6	15	Old age, la grippe	"	Daniel Dunbar & Nicholis Wilbur
" 25	Unnamed.....				Exhaustion.....	"	William F. Lyon & Minnie C. Ness
" 29	John S. Dunbar.....	83	10		Heart failure.....	"	William Dunbar & Sarah Snow
Feb. 18	Isaac Winship.....	90	10	2	Old age.....	Portland, Me...	Isaac Winship & Eunice Gould
" 23	James A. Fobes.....	65	6	8	Heart disease.....	W. Bridgewater	Albert Fobes & Nancy A. Du rham
Mar. 1	Jeanette Howard.....	60	5	1	Paralysis.....	"	Jon'tn Howard & Mary L. Williams
" 6	Mary Gannett Ryder.....		22		Marasmus.....	"	Geo. F. Ryder & Grace M. Adams
" 14	Daniel W. Gardner.....	71	8	12	Strangulation.....	Dixfield, Me...	William and Mary Gardner
" 24	Benjamin Dillard.....	77	7	4	Paralysis.....	Plymouth...	Benjamin Dillard & Mercy Ellis
" 26	Uriah S. Copeland.....	66	5	9	Seuile gangrene.	W. Bridgewater	William Copeland & Mary Willis
April 19	S. Nelson Howard.....	86	1	5	La grippe.....	"	Lloyd Howard and Abigail
" 20	Elizabeth H. Kingman.	92	2	28	Old age.....	"	Nathani l Edson & Betsey Howard
" 20	Samuel L. Ryder.....	71	6	11	Apoplexy.....	"	Samuel Ryder & Anna Kingman
May 24	David W. Whiting.....	88			Heart disease...	Ashford, Conn..	David Whiting & Ruth Leach
June 1	Walter McLeod.....			7	Meningitis.....	W. Bridgewater	Wm. H. McLeod & Carrie E. Willis
July 12	Margaret Healey.....	82			Dysentery.....	Ireland.....	Jeremiah Healy & Julia Donovan
" 28	Minerva A. Keith.....	68	9	28	Disease of liver..	Bridgewater...	Howland Holmes & Hannah Olden
Aug. 5	Mary P. Hall.....	65	11		Gastro enteritis.	Ellsworth, Me..	John Brimmer & Martha Parsons
" 6	Frank P. Dorgan.....	29	11	2	Phthisis.....	W. Bridgewater	Patrick Dorgan & B. Mary Dewey
" 10	Henry Withington.....	68	3		Retro-peri.abces	Canton.....	H'yry Withington & Olive Dunakin
" 14	Philip Kent.....	59	11	29	Fracture of spine	Ir land.....	Michael Kent & Mary Fitzgerald
" 15	Harriet M. Jennings..	68	3	13	Chronic hepatitis	Halifax, N. S..	William Loner & Christina Frasier
Sept. 4	Harriet S. Perkins.....	76	6		Bron. cons'mpt'n	Easton.....	Wend'l Seaver & Joanna Dickerman
" 12	Israel H. Ross.....	85	4	26	Strict. of (Esoph.	W. Brookfield..	Joseph Ross & Elizabeth Hamilton
" 14	Katherine F. Plausche..	74	3	23	Cere-bral hemorrh.	Newport, Can..	John Hurd & — Sawyer
Oct. 27	Mary A. Haven.....	89	5	12	Old age.....	Bo ton.....	Timothy Tillson & Mary Martin
" 29	Patrick E. Keenan.....	24	11	13	Fract. of skull..	Ireland.....	Peter Keenan & Mary (lark
Nov. 7	Charles T. Williams...	55	7	3	Apoplexia.....	Easton.....	C. D. Williams & Susan Thompson
" 18	Elizabeth F. Leonard...	73	1	6	Cancer.....	Taunton.....	Rod'y Grinnell & Betsey Washburn
Dec. 6	Charles E. Tisdale.....	46	10		Influenza.....	W. Bridgewater	Edward Tisdale & Amanda Ripley
" 31	Ralph L. Allen.....	6	4	29	Convulsions.....	"	Lincoln H. Allen & Lana D. Shaw

REPORT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The whole number of bound volumes in the library, December 31, 1899, was 5,124, 135 having been purchased during the previous year.

The number of books issued by the librarian in 1899, and the classes to which they belong, is as follows, viz :

Agriculture,	1
Art,	3
Biography,	78
Fiction,	1,698
General Literature,	137
History,	129
Humorous Works,	37
Juvenile Works,	991
Magazines,	673
Poetry,	82
Reference Works,	4
Religion and Theology,	8
Science,	52
Travels,	83
Public Documents,	4
	<hr/>
	3,980

COST OF MAINTAINING THE LIBRARY.

Receipts.

Cash on hand,	\$0.85
From Town Treasurer,	398.50
Fines and sales,	7.10
	<hr/>
	\$405.78

Expenditures.

Chas. E. Lauriat & Co.,	\$106.70
Librarian's salary,	150.00
R. B. Hassett, Warner library,	22.10
Insurance,	35.00
Magazines,	31.50
Balch Bros. Co.,	11.20
"China of To-Day,"	2.00
"Life of Dewey,"	1.50
Postage, express, oil, stationery, etc.,	5.09
Balance cash on hand,	.69
	<hr/>
	\$405.78

The Cornelia Alger fund, on deposit in the East Bridge-water Savings Bank, now amounts to \$876.34.

Respectfully submitted for the trustees of the library.

CHAS. R. PACKARD.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the beginning of the school year of 1899 the following were members of the school committee:

MRS. A. S. LELACHEUR, C. P. HOWARD, for three years.

MRS. M. K. CROSBY, MRS. C. H. COPELAND, for two years.

E. E. BROWN, W. H. BOSWORTH, for one year.

The organization for the year was as follows:

A. S. LELACHEUR, *Chairman*.

M. K. CROSBY, *Secretary*.

W. H. BOSWORTH, C. P. HOWARD and E. E. BROWN,
Committee on Repairs.

The schools were assigned as follows:

North to Mrs. Copeland,

Cochesett to E. E. Brown,

Center to Mrs. LeLacheur,

South to C. P. Howard,

East and Matfield to Mrs. Crosby.

Jerusalem to Mr. Bosworth.

To A. S. LeLacheur, M. K. Crosby and C. H. Copeland was assigned the approval of teachers selected to fill vacancies.

M. K. Crosby was appointed agent for school supplies.

W. H. Bosworth, I. E. Wheeler, and B. F. Brooks were chosen truant officers.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

TEACHERS.

Miss G. A. Smith	36 weeks,	\$360.00
Miss E. A. Morrow,	36 "	500.00
Miss I. S. Wood,	34 "	340.00
Miss R. L. MacDonald,	27 "	414.11
Miss M. W. Haskell,	20 weeks, 3 days,	200.36
Miss W. A. Holmes,	36 "	432.00
Miss E. M. Dunn,	36 "	360.00
Miss M. A. Dewyer,	36 "	468.00
Miss A. M. Seyser,	36 "	360.00
Miss M. W. Wentworth,	7 weeks, 3 days,	70.00
Miss B. H. Dickerson,	36 "	303.00
Miss E. H. Richardson,	15 "	135.00
Miss M. Smith,	2 "	16.00
Miss L. E. Merritt, drawing,		10.00
Miss A. M. Barnes, music,		154.75
Conveyance of music teacher,		64.75
		<hr/>
		\$4,187.97

JANITORS.

Paid for Jerusalem,	\$14.00
" Cochesett,	26.00
" Center,	34.00
" South,	8.00
" East,	14.00
" Matfield,	14.00
" North,	14.00
	<hr/>
	\$124.00

FUEL.

Paid E. H. Lothrop, 9 tons coal,	\$62.25
" B. Copeland, 4 cords hard, 2 pine, (labor)	34.00
" E. H. Thayer, 2 cords pine,	8.00

Paid C. G. Manley, 4 cords hard, 1 pine,	22.00
“ C. P. Howard, $3\frac{1}{2}$ cds. hard, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cds. pine, (labor)	35.00
“ E. T. Snell, 1 cord hard, 1 cord 3-ft. pine,	10.50
“ S. H. Marshall, 5 cords hard, 1 pine,	29.00
“ C. C. Thayer, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cords hard,	12.50
“ G. Ellis, labor,	10.25
“ H. Withington, “	4.75
“ S. B. Hetherington, “	4.50
“ C. Berquist, “	9 75
“ L. A. Maynard, “	7.00
“ Philip Fay, “	2.00
“ Ernest Edlund, “	2.00
“ C. E. Miller, “	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$254.00

TRANSPORTATION.

“ C. H. Fuller, coach,	\$160.44
“ D. R. Simmons, “	114.58
“ Electric car tickets,	171.50
	<hr/>
	\$446.52

REFERENCE BOOKS AND APPARATUS.

Periodicals from E. W. Nutter, 1899,	\$9.09
One copy “Youth’s Companion,”	1.75
	<hr/>
	\$10.84

EXPENDITURES.

Teacher’s wages,	\$4,187.97
Fuel, ‘	254.00
Janitors,	124.00
Transportation,	446.52
Reference books and periodicals,	10.84
	<hr/>
	\$5,023.33

RECEIPTS.

Town grant,	\$4,450.00
Income of Massachusetts school fund,	294.43
On account of district supervision,	166.67
Tuition of state wards,	47.50
	<hr/>
	\$4,958.60

REPAIRS.

General Repairs, Desks and Incidentals.

Paid Jarvis Burrell, printing and stock,	\$19.03
“ J. H. Fairbanks, labor and stock,	19.55
“ L. Richmond & Co., “ “	68.03
“ N. W. Bradford, labor and stock,	50.68
“ G. R. Drake, painters' supplies,	32.16
“ F. Conlon, labor, Centre, North, South, etc.,	106.50
“ Isam Mitchell, lumber, (Centre)	69.95
“ C. P. Howard, lumber and labor,	68.71
“ J. M. Howard, stock for well, (Centre)	13.84
“ American Furniture Co., desks and chairs,	213.12
“ Freight on furniture,	4.23
“ W. E. Cole, labor,	3.58
“ G. Ellis, labor,	4.00
“ Express and postage,	10.66
	<hr/>
	\$684.04

Small Repairs, Cleaning, Etc.

Cochesett,	\$15.17
Centre,	15.88
South,	5.15
East,	6.80
Matfield,	5.55
North,	3.55
	<hr/>
	\$54.10

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid E. E. Babb & Co., text-books and supplies,	\$41.33
“ Silver, Burdett & Co., readers and music,	15.12
“ Ginn & Co., text-books,	28.50
“ Wm. Ware & Co., text-books,	3.30
“ J. L. Hammett & Co., supplies and text-books,	144.46
“ Express and supplies,	2.62
	<hr/>
	\$234.97

Whole amount of repairs,	738.14
Cost of school supplies,	234.97
	<hr/>
Total,	\$973.11

Sale of text-books,	2.62
Town grant for repairs and supplies,	500.00
Special grant for repairs and furnishings,	300.00
	<hr/>
	\$802.62

New Supplies on Hand Dec. 31, 1899.

Readers, geographies, arithmetics, etc.,	\$21.44
Paper, copy books and general supplies,	10.30
	<hr/>
	\$31.74

Inventory of stock, Jan. 1, 1899,	\$62.65
Amount drawn from treasury,	232.35
Inventory of new stock, Dec. 31, 1899.	31.74
Supplies furnished schools,	265.88

CALENDAR FOR 1900.

WINTER TERM, January 8 to March 23, 1899. Eleven weeks.

Vacation, two weeks.

SPRING TERM, April 9 to June 15. Ten weeks.

Vacation, thirteen weeks.

FALL TERM, September 10 to December 21. Fifteen weeks.

Recess. Thanksgiving week after Wednesday.

Vacation, two weeks.

WINTER TERM, 1901 January 7.

Changes may be made in this to accommodate different schools.

The month for taking the school census has been changed from May to September by the State.

On September 1st, there were 291 children in town between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

During the month of September 270 of these children entered school, 12 (over 14 years of age) were at work, 5 moved from town and 4 were not in school for other causes.

We would ask your ready compliance with the requests contained in the notice issued by our Superintendent to aid in securing regular attendance in our schools. This notice has been sent to the homes of all the pupils with the full approval of the School Board.

The expenditure for conveyance of pupils has not exceeded the appropriation, and the present indications are that the same amount will cover expenses in this department for the present year.

The increase of population along the line of the electric road clearly points to a need, in the near future, for additional accommodations for pupils at the Center.

More than sixty single desks were procured for the reseating of the Center grammar schoolroom, and these fill the room to its utmost capacity.

The small primary building is already much crowded, and it may be impossible to seat all the new pupils next autumn.

As soon as your committee can decide upon some judicious and practicable way of meeting the almost certain need for more room at the Center, they will present a plan for consideration and acceptance by the town.

The repair account was much increased last year by the necessity of extensive repairs upon the fence at the Centre, which now seems in good condition to last for many years.

No appropriation for special objects is asked at this time, as the ordinary grants will probably suffice for current expenses.

We recommend the following appropriations :

For the support of schools,	\$4,000.00
repairs and incidentals,	300.00
text-books and supplies.	200.00
conveyance of pupils,	450.00

At the annual meeting it will be necessary to choose two members for three years.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. LELACHEUR,	} <i>School</i> <i>Committee.</i>
M. K. CROSBY,	
C. H. COPELAND,	
W. H. BOSWORTH,	
C. P. HOWARD,	
E. E. BROWN,	

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of the Town of West Bridgewater :

As Superintendent of Schools of the town of West Bridgewater, I have the honor of presenting herewith my second annual report, which is also the eighth of the series of annual reports since the formation of the union district.

Heretofore the school statistics have covered the *calendar* year from January 1st, to December 31st, inclusive. For the past year, in accordance with the request of the State Board of Education, who wish to establish a uniform statistical period throughout the state, the statistics will cover the period of the *school* year from September, 1898, to June, 1899, inclusive. This period will lap, therefore, upon the last four months (September, 1898, to December, 1898, inclusive) of the previous statistical year. The time of taking the school census has also been changed from May to September, and items are made of the number of children between the ages of seven and fourteen, instead of eight and fourteen as heretofore, to accord with the compulsory attendance law of 1898.

The following statistics have been prepared in accordance with the above explanation.

Number of schools,	9
Number of teachers required,	10
Number of teachers employed during year,	11
Number of pupils in town between the ages of 5 and 15 years, as shown by the census of	
Sept. 1899,	291
May, 1898,	291
May, 1897,	263

Number of children in town between the ages of 7 and 14 years, Sept. 1st,			207
Number of pupils enrolled on school registers during year,			292
Number of pupils enrolled between the ages of 7 and 14, years,			193
Number of pupils enrolled over 15 years,			8
Average membership,			257.72
Center Grammar,	52.47	North,	25.83
Center Primary,	30.41	South,	26.39
Cochesett Grammar,	24.95	East	19.9
Cochesett Primary,	22.7	Matfield,	40.61
Jerusalem,	14.46		
Average attendance,			237.64
Center Grammar,	47.91	North,	23.7
Center Primary,	27.92	South,	22.64
Cochesett Grammar,	23.83	East,	18.4
Cochesett Primary,	20.63	Matfield,	38.68
Jerusalem,	13.93		
Per cent. of attendance,			.922
Center Grammar,	.916	North,	.92
Center Primary,	.917	South,	.84
Cochesett Grammar,	.933	East,	.909
Cochesett Primary,	.906	Matfield,	.95
Jerusalem,	.962		
Per cent. of attendance, 1898,			.929

But one change in the corps of teachers has occurred since the last report. At the close of the school year, Miss M. W. Haskell resigned her position as assistant in the Center Grammar School and Miss Elizabeth H. Richardson of Brockton was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The necessity for special direction of drawing in the schools led to securing Miss L. Eveline Merritt, Assistant Drawing Instructor of the Bridgewater Normal, to outline the work

each term for the teachers and to criticise the results obtained. Thus, for small expense, more unified and definite work is possible in this important subject.

The work in music the past year, as in the preceding year, gives evidence of the characteristic skill and enthusiasm of the supervisor whose interesting report is appended.

That a more satisfactory system of writing might be secured, a change of books was deemed advisable. An examination of the leading vertical system terminated in the adoption of the *Vertical Round Hand Books* prepared by H. W. Shaylor and published by Ginn & Co. While we found other excellent systems including those having newer "wrinkles" and alleged improvements in the mechanical construction of the page, as to guide lines, etc., in the judgment of the superintendent and of the several committees of the district the books chosen combine most satisfactorily the qualities of simplicity, beauty and possible rapidity of execution — manifestly essential characteristics in a good system of writing.

Last spring the superintendent endeavored to check the carelessness with respect to school attendance which manifested itself in certain sections of the district. In some instances children were kept from school upon almost any pretext and frequently no reason was assigned for a child's absence. In order to make clear the serious nature of this carelessness, the teachers were instructed to explain the state law to the children and to impress upon their minds that the law allowed the school authorities to excuse only cases of necessary absence.

To prevent misunderstanding as to the interpretation of the law and as to what constituted a necessary absence, this fall the superintendent prepared a notice quoting the latest state law upon the subject of attendance and giving the reasons which would form legitimate excuses for absence. These notices received the approval of the school committee of each

town of the district and a printed slip containing the notice which follows was sent to the parent or guardian of every child in the schools.

Please keep for reference.

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

The attention of parents and guardians is called to the following sections from chapter 496 of the State laws of 1898.

SECT. 12. Every child between seven and fourteen years of age shall attend some public day school in the town or city in which he resides during the entire time the public day schools are in session.

* * * * * *provided*, that the superintendent of schools, or, where there is no superintendent of schools, the school committee, or teachers acting under authority of said superintendent of schools or school committee, may excuse cases of necessary absence. * * *

SECT. 31. Any person having under his control a child between seven and fourteen years of age who fails for five day sessions or ten half day sessions within any period of six months while under such control, to cause such child to attend school as required by section twelve of this act, the physical or mental condition of such child not being such as to render his attendance at school harmful or impracticable, upon complaint by a truant officer and conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay a fine of not more than twenty dollars. Any person who induces or attempts to induce any child to absent himself unlawfully from school, or employs or harbors while school is in session any child absent unlawfully from school, shall forfeit and pay a fine of not more than fifty dollars.

It is obviously the duty of the school authorities to enforce the State laws printed above. In order, however, that cases of "necessary absence" may be excused, it will be readily seen that the teacher must know the *reason* for each absence recorded.

Hon. Frank A. Hill, Secretary of the State Board of Education, says: "It is made by statute the duty of the school committee to enforce the attendance law in cases of unauthorized absence. It is likewise their duty to protect children who are absent from school for good reasons against that operation of the compulsory attendance law which might work hardship to children, if the reasons for their absence were unknown. * *

While parents and guardians have to decide, in the first instance, upon the validity of the reasons for detaining a child at home, the final decision must rest with the school authorities who are charged with the duty of

enforcing the attendance law. The admission of the principle that a child within the compulsory years may be kept away from school without any assignment of reason therefor would nulify our compulsory attendance law."

In consideration of the foregoing the superintendent asks the earnest co-operation of the parents and guardians in carrying out the following regulations.

In every instance where it is possible, the parent or guardian of a pupil intending, for any reason, to absent himself from a regular session of school should, before the opening of said session, make application, either in person or by letter, to the teacher of such school, for permission for the pupil thus to absent himself, and in such application should state the reason for the proposed absence.

Whenever it is impossible to make the application previous to the absence, immediately upon the return of the pupil to school, the parent or guardian should render an excuse either in person or by letter to the teacher of the school, and in such excuse should state the reason for absence. To exclude possibilities of mistake, an excuse by letter should contain the date upon which it is written.

The following reasons will constitute legitimate excuses for absence.

1. Death in the family of the pupil.
2. Illness or physical disability on the part of the pupil, or illness in the immediate family, which positively necessitates the presence of the pupil at home.
3. Weather so inclement as to render it imprudent for the pupil to attend school.
4. Certain other possible reasons which may be decided as legitimate by the teacher and superintendent as occasion arises.

FRANK O. JONES, Supt. of Schools,
East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater and Raynham.

NOTE When eight UNEXCUSED half-day absences have been recorded against a pupil in one term of school, the teacher will notify the superintendent, and warn the parent or guardian of the pupil, that the limit prescribed by law is nearly reached. When no reason for an absence is given, such absence will be recorded as unexcused.

The attempt to call the attention of the people to the necessity for regular school attendance has not been in vain. While, whooping cough and other diseases common to childhood have depleted the ranks for a time in some sections, on the whole the teachers' monthly reports to the superintendent show a marked rise in percentage of attendance. Several of these reports this fall have registered a daily attendance for the month of over 99 per cent.

Another matter to which the superintendent has given recent attention is the preparation of a new monthly report card for the pupils. On this card, "effort" has been given an equal place with the regular subjects of study. While a pupil's standing in arithmetic, language, and geography is understood to have the most weight in deciding upon his promotion, I have instructed the teachers to take into consideration the effort made by each pupil and record it carefully upon the card sent home to his parents.

Progressive educators agree with practical unanimity that the relative standing of a pupil as compared with other members of his class, does not constitute his true measure, but that he must be estimated by the individual effort which he puts forth. The old systems of ranking pupils as first, second, and third in the class, as an incentive, and of reckoning their attainments to the fraction of one per cent., have been discarded for more humane and rational methods.

As bearing upon this point, I will quote a passage from the current report of Superintendent Hervey of Pawtucket:

"Any system (of marking) that lays emphasis upon the absolute attainment of pupils, rather than upon the effort by which that attainment was reached, seems to be wrong in theory and harmful in practice. It is a matter of supreme indifference how much or how little John is supposed to know as compared with James. The vital thing to take account of is whether John with his individual endowment of talent and opportunity is living up to the full measure of his possibilities. * * *

"The bright boy, who learns with little effort, should not be given the occasion to feel that, though he has not done much to merit it, he is really a very superior person; nor should the slow boy, when he reluctantly carries home his report, be forced to the conclusion that, though he has striven as never before to do his best, somehow there is something counted more worthy than faithful effort, and that he, through no fault of his own, has fallen short of it. A system of marking that lays the emphasis upon attainment rather than upon faithful effort can hardly fail to confuse ethical distinctions in the mind of the child and to discourage those who stand in great need of help."

The most careful consideration of the individual pupil is likewise required in settling questions of promotion. Suppose, in a grade, there are two pupils who have attained practically the same standing and have put forth essentially the same effort. Suppose, however, that one of these pupils is young for his grade and his lack of scholarship is the result of immaturity; while the other is old for his grade, and his low standing is the result of slowness. Here, assuredly, is a call for recognition of the individual. Is it not for the advantage of the immature one to remain in the lower grade until he is able to grasp the work there to be accomplished? On the other hand, are there not many instances wherein it would be better for the slow one, providing he displays the proper spirit and effort, to go on from grade to grade, absorbing what he can in the short period during which the majority of such pupils can be induced to attend school?

These are difficult questions for the teacher to decide, and they demand that she study her individual pupils with discriminating care. It is in deciding these questions that the teacher displays her greatest interest in the welfare of the individual; yet just here is the source of the most frequent and most bitter misunderstandings between parents and teachers. Often the teacher is doubtless at fault for not informing the parent of the first serious falling off on the part of the pupil in any subject. The monthly report card is not sufficient. The busy parent does not always stop to compare

each month's record with the preceding one. His attention should be especially called to any record which shows a lack of proper effort on the part of his child. The parent being thus warned may be able to give the pupil the right incentive to better work. At all events, the news of his child's failure will not come as a disagreeable surprise at the close of the term.

On the other hand, though a child's failure may be due to idleness, lack of application or irregular attendance, his explanation to his parent is very naturally, yet perhaps unintentionally, colored by a desire for self-justification, and his teacher is censured for injustice and partiality. The parent too frequently accepts without further investigation, this one-sided account of the situation and immediately enters a complaint to the superintendent that the teacher is unfit for her position. How many times does the same threadbare cry come to the superintendent's ears: "The teacher is down on my child, and when this condition exists it is of no use for the child to try."

Does the parent never consider that, were a teacher so indiscreet as to allow her aversion for a child to affect her attitude toward him or to influence her judgment in matters of promotion, instead of insisting upon his presence in the same grade another year, she would hasten the departure of such a pupil by promoting him as rapidly as consistent with her authority?

In a majority of failures with respect to promotion, the trouble may be traced to the pupil. He has either neglected to give his lessons proper attention, or he has been unable to accomplish the work in the required time. In either case the teacher is not at fault. With her manifold duties as instructor, manager, and guide of her many children of many minds, she cannot with justice spend her whole time watching the inattentive ones, nor can she always furnish impetus for the slow ones. It is for the teacher's interest to give her pupils as high a record as possible; as another superintendent puts it:

“If any mistake is made it will probably be in giving too high a mark.”

At the same time, the teacher is in the most favorable position to render competent judgment upon the school work of the pupil, and almost never does a case arise wherein both the superintendent and parents cannot safely abide by the teacher's decision.

The failure of a pupil, however, is not the sole cause of misunderstanding between parents and teachers. Punishment is a fruitful source of trouble. Here also there is a tendency on the part of some parents to place implicit faith in the biased reports of the child, and without investigation to arraign the teacher for hasty or vindictive action.

It is true that a teacher frequently uses more severity than parents have felt it necessary to employ at home with the same child; but again the numbers in charge and the nature of the teacher's work render imperative more circumspect behavior and more implicit obedience on the part of the pupil than is often demanded in the home. The teacher, on the other hand, may not have made a study of the particular child in question. An early conference with the parents might have disclosed certain peculiarities of the pupil by reason of which he needed special attention and training.

In the foregoing I have manifested the desire that attention shall be given, as far as practicable, to the individual pupils, and the belief that successful endeavor in this direction demands a closer relation between teachers and parents. As I have said so often in talks with parents, the school and home must co-operate if the *best* is to be done for the children. By becoming familiar with the school, by observing the work his child does there, and the way he does it, by exchanging views with the teacher as to the especial needs and possibilities of the child, the parent will do his part to bring about the desired co-operation and will render the teacher invaluable aid in her study and training of the individual.

A topic to which I wish to give due space, is the course of

study for the ninth grade. The suggestions offered are the result of nearly two years of careful observation of the present course. As it now stands, this course requires little else than a thorough review in the common branches, which have already been completed in the eighth grade. A year's review, taking up practically the same subject matter as has just been covered, with few changes of books or methods may pall upon the best of pupils, and result in a lack of real stimulation at just the time when the awakening of desire for higher and more accurate knowledge is most important. Entering the high school after a year of desultory study, he encounters extreme difficulty in acquiring the intensity of application necessary for the new work.

Much has been said, and with good reason, concerning the "gap," which exists in so many school systems, between the highest grammar grade and the first year in the high school. One of the principal excuses of the ninth grade for being, is to bridge this gap between the elementary and the secondary school. Our ninth grade course, in its present form, fails to accomplish this purpose.

I believe thoroughly in review; but such review should add to repetition the fixing in mind of principles already studied, by the application of these principles to new subjects. Thus, not only would interest in matter previously studied be sustained and the immediate object of review be accomplished, but also there would be awakened a desire to pursue the new subject further. The transition to the high school would be easy and natural, and the pupil's entrance to that institution would be practically assured. The studies of the first high school year having been taken up in an elementary way in the grammar school, the pupil would not be confronted by the difficulties of an entirely new sphere of work.

I therefore recommend that arithmetic be reviewed by an application of its principles to book-keeping, elementary algebra, and concrete geometry. Physical geography, I would merge into the natural sciences, giving topical work

in elementary geology, physics and chemistry. Political geography and United States history, I would combine in elementary civics. Believing that technical grammar requires some work beyond that done in the eighth grade, I would devote part of the time of the ninth grade to a careful study of that subject, giving especial attention to the construction of the sentence, with an extensive use of the diagram for written analysis. I would apply the principles of grammar in composition and in literature, giving much time to composition, not neglecting frequent daily themes which should receive careful correction and special individual attention.

Such changes in the ninth grade course, as I have suggested, I hope may be carried into effect next September.

As an additional means conducing to a natural transition between the grammar and high school, I suggest a slight change in the closing exercises of the ninth grade. When these are made formal graduating exercises, as at the close of the high school or college, is there not a tendency on the part of the pupil to feel that he has finished his necessary education, and that anything beyond savors of luxury? Moreover, with no greater development than it is possible for children to acquire in the elementary schools, is there not danger that these exercises shall become rather pretentious? I believe in conditions which will make the pupil feel that in entering the high school, he is merely passing from the ninth to the tenth grade — that there is no real stopping point before high school graduation and only a nominal one then. Furthermore, if the graduating exercises have but a tinge of pretentiousness, there is unquestionable danger of producing in the children who participate a very unhealthful condition of the mind.

I suggest, therefore, that the exercises be made more general for the school, giving the ninth grade, of course, a major part on the program, and that the members of this grade receive certificates of promotion to the first year of the high school.

For the reason that some of the pupils attend out of town

high schools, and others allow the grammar school course to complete their education when, apparently, they might pursue higher studies, I am forced to believe that not all our citizens appreciate the privileges open to their children in the High School as conducted at Howard Seminary. Because of this connection with the Seminary the pupils of the High School have the advantage of a large corps of teachers and superior appliances such as it is impossible for the ordinary county high school to maintain. I hope that these facts may receive the earnest consideration of all prospective high school patrons in the town of West Bridgewater.

In my last report, I suggested a plan for better grading in the schools, and in this connection mentioned a probable necessity, in the near future, for additional accommodations at the Center Grammar School. The unexpected numbers entering that school this fall made this necessity an immediate one, and extra seats were provided until all available room was occupied. Judging from the apparent tendency toward thicker population along the electric lines, the attendance may be expected to increase year by year. I, therefore, beg to call your attention to the fact that another fall more pupils may ask for admittance than can be taken in the present building. Though in mere anticipation of these numbers, is it too early to recommend that an addition to the Center School be built or some other steps be taken to provide more room before the opening of the next school year?

As the numbers at the Center increase, the numbers in the outlying schools appear gradually to diminish. This decrease may eventually necessitate the closing of one or two schools.

In an article upon rural schools in a recent issue of *The Outlook*, it is pointed out that a number of States in different parts of the Union are improving their school systems, and at the same time lessening the expense of maintaining them by consolidation of schools and conveyance of pupils. As I stated in my report a year ago, this consolidation simplifies administration and makes possible better grading, better

appliances and better instruction. The money which is used for the maintenance of one of these small schools will more than pay for the conveyance of its pupils, so that the amount saved may be used toward securing better accommodations and improvements in the central building, which would be impracticable in the smaller rural school-house.

To quote from the article mentioned above :

“It has been urged in almost every State of the Union by the State Superintendents, and for years by our United States Commissioner of Education, that the abolition of the weak schools is of vital importance, not only to the community, but to the Nation ; that the mistake is made in most States of carrying the school to the pupils instead of the pupils to the school. Massachusetts has demonstrated for twenty-five years the advantage of consolidation of the rural schools.”

Before closing, I wish to express my appreciation of the interest which many of the teachers have taken in school-room decoration. The inexpensive prints of photographs and of works of art, used so much in these decorations, not only make the rooms attractive, but they bring an atmosphere of culture. The children are thus made familiar with the faces of famous persons, with noted places, and with masterpieces of painting and sculpture ; their mental world becomes wonderfully enlarged, and more than this, there is awakened and stimulated in them a refining love for the beautiful.

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to all my associates in the work, and especially to thank the members of the Committee for their cordial support.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK O. JONES,

Superintendent of Schools.

East Bridgewater, Jan. 27, 1900.

REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC.

To the School Committee of the Town of West Bridgewater :

In summing up the musical results for the year, three essentials must be considered: first, quality of tone; second, ability to read; third, artistic interpretation. If the pupils have gained in purity of tone, in ability to read in the various keys, and, from an artistic standpoint, are better able to interpret a song, then can it be said they have surely advanced musically.

I find that good progress along these lines has been made the past year. The value of the study of music is being appreciated more and more by both teachers and pupils. I know this by the added interest shown.

I wish to emphasize the importance of musical *work* in the Primary grades. It is here to a great degree that the child gains his love for music; especially is this true if he has but little at home. He gains this by means of the rote song; and also, I hold, by the power gained to read his own little exercises and songs. By necessity, on account of the plurality of grades in many of our schools, the little one has had to gain much of his musical knowledge by his natural power of absorption. I think this is educationally right up to a certain point, but beyond this the mind is not stimulated musically. We all appreciate and love that for which we struggle. If the music work could be graded somewhat after the manner of the other work in school, the pupils would graduate better equipped musically, and with a deeper love and appreciation for the best.

A teacher need not of necessity be an artist in song to produce good musical results in her school. To the teacher who is naturally musical, this work comes easier; but no one need

feel she is incapable of teaching music. It is the application of modern educational methods to the music lesson that is one of the greatest factors in producing good results in our schools.

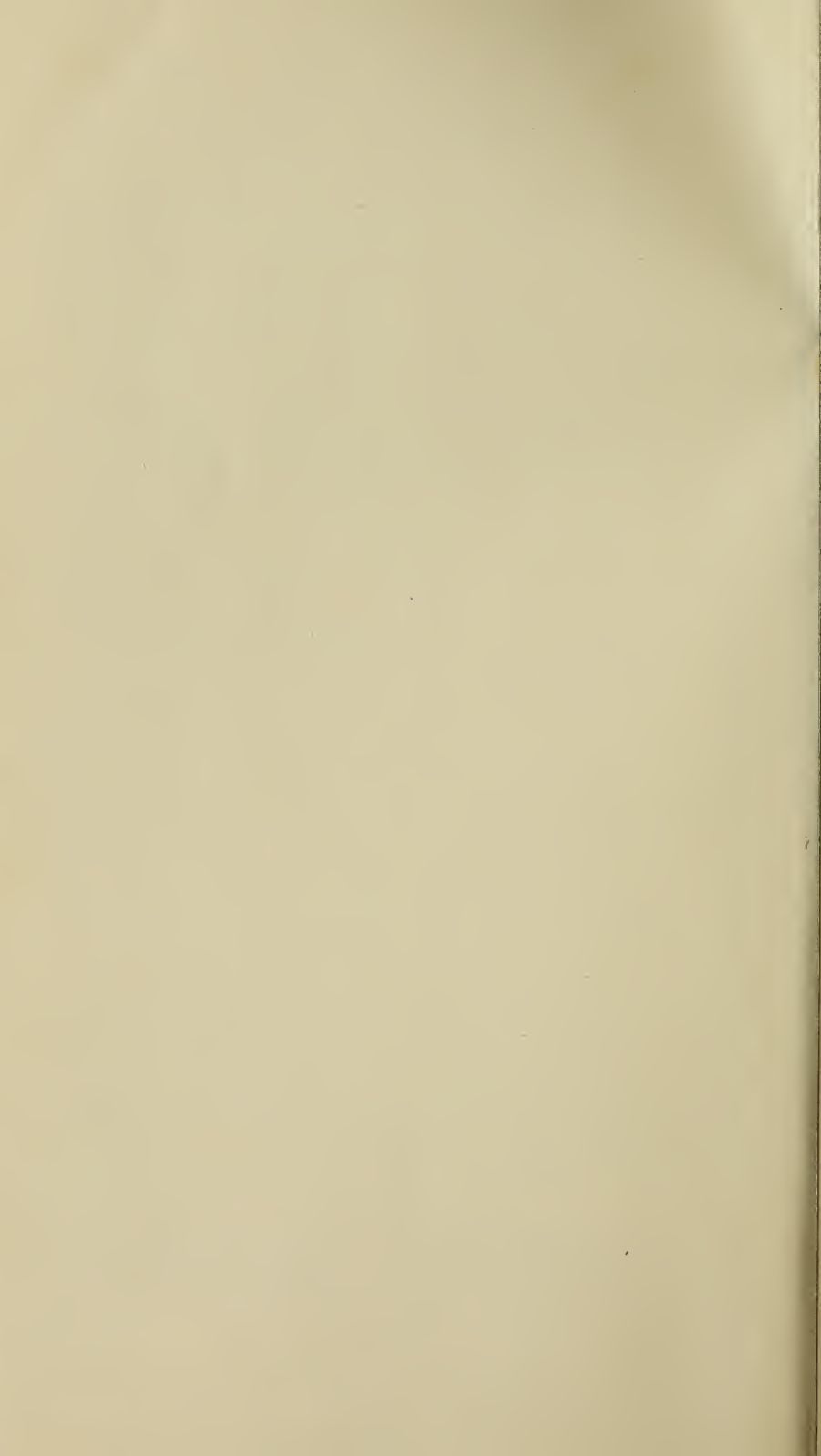
The pupils in the grammar schools have at all times shown a willingness to coöperate with the director, and satisfactory results have followed.

I desire to express my hearty appreciation of the readiness on the part of the teachers to carry out any and all plans that have been presented. Only by unity of action can harmony reign, and music serve its true purpose.

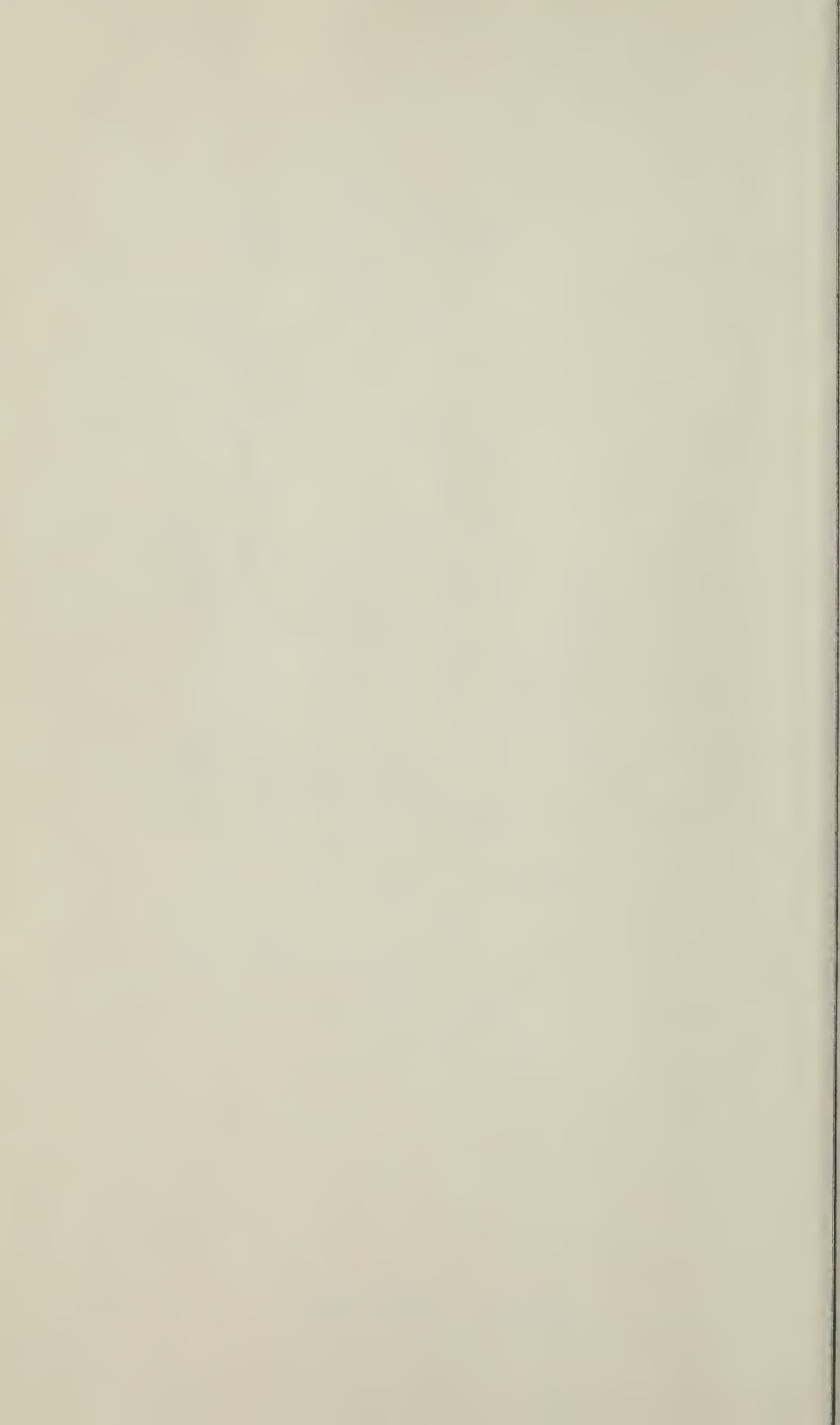
Respectfully submitted,

ANNIE M. BARNES,

Supervisor of Music.



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